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Kabariti continues talks with Parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Sunday stressed his government's keen interest in maintaining and bolstering cooperation with the legislative power. During a meeting with the Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Sour at the Parliament House, Mr. Kabariti said his government looks forward to maintaining and strengthening cooperation with Parliament. In a statement to Petra following the meeting, Mr. Sour said Mr. Kabariti's visit falls within the context of consultation and exchange of ideas between the government and the legislative power.

Israeli tourism minister arrives today

AMMAN (Petra) — Israeli Minister of Tourism Moshe Kasaf arrives here Monday at the head of a tourism delegation on a visit to Jordan, during which he will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart Saleh Irsheidat on means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in tourism. The two ministers will also discuss proposals for setting up tourist projects in the Dead Sea area and means of facilitating the flow of tourists to both countries.

Arab foreign ministers to meet

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will take part in an emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers on Saturday to discuss the Middle East peace process, league officials said Sunday. The participants will discuss "the dangers threatening the Middle East peace process, especially the lifting of the freeze in settlements around Jerusalem," they said. Mr. Arafat and the foreign ministers will also discuss "the refusal by the Likud government to stick by the Oslo accords (agreed with the Palestinians) and to restart peace talks with Syria." Mr. Arafat called for an extraordinary meeting of Arab League foreign ministers at the end of August.

Anti-U.S. rally held in Moscow

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian police on Sunday arrested several people who held a noisy demonstration outside the U.S. embassy to protest the U.S. missile attacks on Iraq. Police said they took action because the rally was unauthorized. The official Itar-Tass agency said two people were detained, while Interfax reported four arrests. The detainees were questioned and then released. Itar-Tass added, "About 100 people took part in the rally called by nationalist and communist groups waving banners demanding 'Yankee go home' and 'Hands off Iraq.'" Among those arrested was Stanislav Terekhov, head of a radical anti-government group of officers, who played a major role in the Russian parliament's armed revolt against President Boris Yeltsin in 1993.

Regent: Jordan is committed to free market economy, transparency and transfer of power to private sector

Record of successful countries shows that they followed educational and structural reforms

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has stressed the importance of the decision to raise bread prices, saying that other steps will follow to consolidate the new policy of free market economy, openness to the world and the transfer of economic power to the private sector.

But the Crown Prince, in an address to the World Affairs Council Saturday evening, indicated that the decision was an extension of the development process that has resulted in "the numerous achievements of Jordan in all fields."

"Should the talk about the new orientation as if it entails all the good and the past as if it were a worn-out dress continue?" said the Crown Prince, adding that "in the past, we made mistakes and we made numerous achievements."

Prince Hassan stressed, however, that social security cannot be attained by economic achievements only.

The citizen should exercise his humanity in decision-making through legitimate channels in clear language, said the Regent. He said it was not enough to make promises to the citizens and what was needed was to explain to them what they entailed in terms of challenges and sacrifices.

Saying that the Jordanian people have proved their ability to cope with change, the Crown Prince said the coherence of societies and the steadfastness of states were conditional upon the ability to compete in today's world. But he said that countries which managed to compete were those which introduced structural changes in education and economic policies.

The Crown Prince said that before reaping the fruits of economic change, the country would have to go through a difficult transitional period and the challenge was to survive this period with minimum losses or negative effects.

"Negative effects are the tax of change which must be paid," the Crown Prince

told members and guests of the World Affairs Council, which is headed by former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Prince Hassan said that the solution lies in the ability to absorb the social cost of reform and not in abandoning the process which, he said, is a necessity due to the globalisation of the world economy.

He said that the three forces of production — the government, employers and trade and labour unions — should reach consensus which starts by institutionalising dialogue as the mechanism for resolving disputes.

"Any structural reform, especially that its results affect people's daily lives,

should be preceded by a thorough and in-depth national dialogue in order to avoid as much as possible its impact, and to base the reform process on a general consensus," said Prince Hassan.

He said that people should be involved in the making of decisions that will affect their lives and informed of the consequences of the change that is being sought.

It is civil society that can assure that transition from one stage to another is made with the least possible pain, said Prince Hassan.

He said the change should give equal opportunities to people and hence national unity is the basic principle upon which the policies of

the Kingdom are conducted.

"If we talk in a dual language (about) citizens and guests, about white and black...we strengthen divisions," and give some the chance to sow seeds of disunity and harm the Kingdom, he said.

Prince Hassan said that Jordan had exercised social and economic democracy in ways clearer than those in which it exercised political democracy and "now we are building the political democratic institutions to maintain what we have enjoyed of cultural, social and economic democracy."

The Crown Prince said the adoption of a proper

(Continued on page 7)



KDP, boosted by Iraqi army, takes more towns; PUK appeals for help

Combined agency dispatches

FIGHTING RAGED in northern Iraq on Sunday and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said rival Kurdish rebels backed by Iraqi government forces had captured the strategic towns of Degala and Koi Sanjaq.

"Iraqi troops supported by KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) tanks and artillery have taken Degala. I confirm that Degala has fallen," Latif Rashid of the PUK's London office told Reuters.

Degala lies just outside the city of Koi Sanjaq, 100 kilometres to the northwest of Sulaimaniyah, the last main PUK stronghold near the Iranian border.

A PUK spokesman in Washington, Barham Salih, said Koi Sanjaq had also fallen at 3.30 p.m. (1130 GMT) to combined Iraqi-KDP forces. There was no immediate independent confirmation of this.

U.S. cruise missile attacks on Iraq last week were precipitated by the attack on Erbil on Aug. 31 when the PUK was driven out of the northern city by the combined forces of Iraqi armour and KDP guerrillas, Baghdad's new ally in the mainly Kurdish north.

The fall of Degala followed several days of fierce fighting between the rival Kurdish militias.

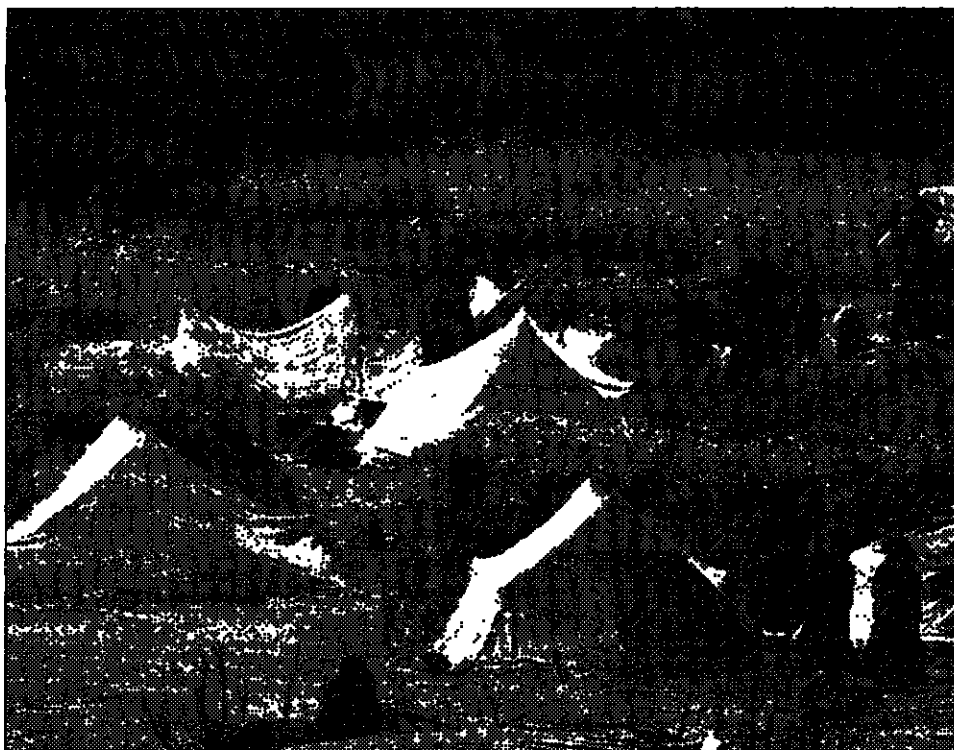
PUK leader Jalal Talabani told the British Broadcasting Corporation by telephone that thousands of people were fleeing Koi Sanjaq.

Mr. Talabani said the U.S. missile attacks on southern Iraq had done nothing to stop Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from continuing his attacks in the Kurdish-held north.

"They must prevent Saddam Hussein...now we have to punish him," Mr. Talabani said.

"We call on the U.S. and its coalition partners to intervene urgently to halt the Iraqi aggression and end this onslaught against the Kurdish people," the PUK said.

Earlier, KDP radio said its forces had killed 300



Some 40 Iraqi Kurdish families have set up a makeshift camp near the Iraqi-Turkish border after fleeing their homes in an area where the Turkish government says it wants to set up a "security cordon" against the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which is fighting for autonomy or independence for Turkey's Kurdish community (Reuters photo)

GCC condemns Turkey and Iran for interference in Iraq

RIYADH (Agencies) — The six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on Sunday condemned "the interference of certain neighbouring states" in Iraqi Kurdistan, in an unstated but clear reference to Turkey and Iran.

Gulf Arab foreign ministers, at the end of a two-day meeting in Riyadh, issued a statement urging an "immediate and definitive halt to the interference of certain neighbouring states in the internal affairs of Iraq."

"We cannot accept any move to create a security zone on the border of Iraq by any party," said Omani Foreign Minister Youssef Ben Alawi Abdullah, whose country currently heads the GCC.

"Turkey has no right to establish a security zone. We understand the Turkish concern for security but this does not justify interference in Iraq," he said.

"This will make more complications in northern Iraq," he added.

Ankara has announced plans to set up a security

zone along the border in northern Iraq to curb infiltration by Turkish Kurdish rebels of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), an Iraqi Kurdish group which has allied itself with Iraqi forces, has protested against Iranian military involvement on the side of its Kurdish rivals, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), in northern Iraq.

The GCC statement did not mention the recent U.S. military strikes against Iraq, but expressed "its support for and consideration of allied countries' efforts to implement (U.N.) Security Council resolutions related to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait."

The six foreign ministers also stressed "the importance of the unified political position and the cohesion of the allied coalition" against Iraq.

Mr. Ben Alawi said the GCC countries still "strongly support the international coalition led by the United States."

He said the GCC has been in consultation with the United States and other coalition members and will be in the future.

The Omani official said the Gulf states were at odds with the United States, however, over its missile strikes on Iraq.

The differences centred on "the methods used (by Washington) to deal with the situation in Iraq," he said.

Meanwhile Iraq has dropped a demand that the U.S. missile strikes against the south of the country be placed on the agenda of an Arab League session to be held in Cairo on Saturday, Arab League sources said.

The Iraqi delegate, during a meeting of Arab League representatives here on Wednesday, called for the U.S. missile strikes to be discussed "in order to adopt a common Arab position denouncing the attack," the sources said.

But a League official who requested anonymity said

Washington does not rule out more strikes

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States will protect its regional allies and the flow of oil but will not get involved in the Kurdish "civil war," U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry told CBS Television Sunday.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff John Shalikshvili told NBC that the United States would "not stand by idly" if Iraqi President Saddam Hussein did not withdraw completely from Kurdish-inhabited northern Iraq.

"We will ensure... that (Saddam) Hussein does not take action against his own people or against his neighbours," General Shalikshvili said.

But he would not say what exactly how the United States would do, saying "it is best... that (Saddam) does not know exactly what we will do."

Mr. Perry defined vital U.S. strategic interests as ensuring the continued flow of oil from the Middle East and the sovereignty of U.S. allies on Iraq's southern border, but condemned President Saddam's "monstrosities" against the Kurds.

The two top defence officials placed special emphasis on the need to "contain" President Saddam.

They called last week's missile strikes on Iraq a success, with Gen. Shalikshvili emphasising that the Iraqi president was "worse off" than before the cruise-missile strikes and the extension of the no-fly zone to the outskirts of Baghdad.

Gen. Shalikshvili spoke on the NBC news programme "meet the press" after a spokesman for one of the Kurdish factions said its rival, backed by Iraqi forces, had captured the towns of Degala and Koi Sanjaq.

Iraqi-backed forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party appeared to be trying

Iraq warns Turkey on proposed buffer zone

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said on Sunday it would take whatever action was necessary to stop Turkey from establishing a security buffer zone in its northern Kurdish region.

"We will take every necessary action in our part to prevent it (buffer zone)," said Hamed Youssef Hummadi, head of the Culture and Information Committee at the Iraqi National Assembly (parliament). Speaking to reporters, he did not elaborate on whether such action would include military action.

Mr. Hummadi, a former Iraqi culture and information minister, blamed Washington for pushing Ankara into trying to impose the security zone. Ankara proposed the temporary zone last week and Washington said it had nothing against the idea.

"The Turkish government move is prompted by the American government not by the Turkish interest," Mr. Hummadi said.

His comments were made during a protest in front of the U.N. office in Baghdad, along with Iraq's speaker of the assembly Sadoon Hammadi and several members

of parliament, against last week's U.S. missile strikes against Iraq.

"If the Turkish government insists on that buffer zone and interfering in Iraq's internal affairs, we think it will not be in the interest of both countries (Iraq and Turkey)," he added.

Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller said on Friday the proposed security cordon would deter infiltration from Iraq by PKK guerrillas.

"If Turkey feels that it has to protect itself it should have that buffer zone in its territory and not in Iraqi territory," Mr. Hummadi said.

Mr. Hummadi welcomed the outcome of the European union meeting in Ireland which failed to back the United States on its missile strikes against Iraq.

"The European Community (union) meeting did not support the U.S. and the situation in Russia is completely with Iraq...China and to certain extent France (are with Iraq)," Mr. Hummadi said. British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind

(Continued on page 7)

Arafat, Mordechai agree to meet soon

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israel's Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai spoke by telephone on Sunday and agreed to meet soon, an Israeli official said.

"During the conversation, which was conducted in a positive atmosphere, both men decided to meet soon, after Arafat returns from a visit to Japan," Mr. Mordechai's spokesman said in a statement.

Mr. Arafat is due to travel on Monday to Japan where he will brief government officials on his landmark summit last Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and discuss bilateral relations.

Mr. Netanyahu, announced after his talks with Mr. Arafat that Mr. Mordechai would meet the Palestinian leader on Sunday.

But a Palestinian official said on Saturday the meeting had been postponed

because both men had busy schedules.

"A final date for the meeting will be set soon," the spokesman said. "They will discuss a series of security matters on the agenda between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)."

Mr. Mordechai has been formulating Israeli plans for a long-delayed troop redeployment in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Israel has said new security arrangements are needed to protect 400 Jewish settlers living among the 120,000 Palestinians in Hebron. The Palestinians want Israel to implement unchanged a partial pullout agreed by its previous government.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said on Sunday Israel was prepared to move quickly on peace with Palestinians but action

(Continued on page 7)

Turkish-Cypriot soldier shot dead in apparent 'retaliatory' murder

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Greek Cypriots shot dead a Turkish-Cypriot soldier and wounded another along the "green line" dividing the island on Sunday in an apparent revenge attack, Turkish-Cypriot officials said.

"It was a cold-blooded murder, out of a drive for revenge," said Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Çiller said the Nicosia government, a Greek-Cypriot administration, was to blame for allowing the attack and warned against further violence.

The Turkish-Cypriot news agency TAK said a group of Greek Cypriots crossed the green line and opened fire on a Turkish-Cypriot sentry post.

The U.N. peacekeeping force UNFICYP said the incident took place close to the British sovereign base area of Ayios Nikolaos. "The area concerned is not... in the United Nations buffer zone," it said.

Bases spokesman Anthony Womer said British military police were helping a Turkish investigation into the shootings, which took place two kilometres from the listening post of Ayios Nikolaos.

The shots were apparently fired from north of the Turkish ceasefire line "and therefore outside British jurisdiction, but the perpetrators crossed the 100-metre strip" of bases territory, according to a British statement.

Mrs. Çiller, whom Mr. Denktaş briefed on the telephone, said: "I want to warn the Greek-Cypriot administration: the

Greek side of the island is guilty in the first degree of this murder."

"This armed attack is a sign that the Greek and Greek-Cypriot side may go on to commit further provocations in the coming days," she said, citing upcoming joint Greek and Greek-Cypriot military exercises.

Turkey has complained to the United Nations, which patrols most of the buffer zone, and Britain, Mrs. Çiller said.

She warned: "Nobody should fool themselves that the Turkish government has turned its attention away from the development of the situation on Cyprus in recent days as it focuses on northern Iraq."

The Cyprus government said it had no information about any shootings, while the Greek-Cypriot national guard posted some 700 metres away gave no report of gunfire during the night.

Two members of the group fired 14 rounds from Kalashnikov automatic weapons at the soldiers on sentry duty, Turkish-Cypriot security forces told TAK. The wounded soldier was in critical condition in a Famagusta hospital.

Mr. Denktaş called for Turkish Cypriots to stay calm. TAK reported.

The incident came after Turkish forces shot dead a Greek-Cypriot demonstrator along the buffer zone not far from Ayios Nikolaos as he tried to tear down a Turkish flag at a sentry post on Aug. 14.

U.S. diplomatic mission meets warring Afghans

KABUL (AFP) — A U.S. diplomatic mission has held talks in Kabul with military strongman Ahmad Shah Masood and Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, an American diplomat said Sunday.

"We are interested in the general Afghan peace process," said John Holtzman, deputy U.S. ambassador to Islamabad, describing the mission's trip here as a "routine visit."

After meeting Mr. Hekmatyar Sunday morning, Mr. Holtzman said he would next fly to the southern provincial capital Kandahar to hold talks with the leaders of the Taliban militia which is currently besieging Kabul.

Aides to Mr. Masood, who hosted a dinner for Mr. Holtzman Saturday, said one item discussed with the Americans was the sensitive issue of the proposed arms embargo against Afghanistan.

"Imposition of an arms embargo will not be fair. It will only victimise the government," said a spokesman for Mr. Masood.

The spokesman pointed out that whereas the Kabul government had to rely on easily monitored air transport to receive arms, opposition factions could use the largely unpoliceable "porous Pakistani border."

"An Afghan arms embargo would only mean the strengthening of the Taliban," he added.

Accompanied by Brad Hanson of the U.S. consulate in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar, Mr. Holtzman flew into Kabul Saturday on a Red Cross flight from the northern provincial capital, Mazar-e-Sharif. In Mazar, Mr. Holtzman said he met with ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostum, who recently agreed with Kabul to reopen the Salang Highway linking the two centres after nearly three years closure due to factional fighting.

While there is a glimmer of hope for a negotiated peace with Gen. Dostum's National Islamic Movement of Northern Afghanistan, clashes continue south and east of Kabul between pro-Kabul factions and the Taliban.

From their bases in adjacent Logar province, the Taliban are poised to enter Ningharhar province, the shura or ruling council of which has mustered a defence force now dug-in alongside a joint group of fighters from both Mr. Masood and Mr. Hekmatyar.

According to Kabul military officials the Taliban have concentrated their forces in two Logar locations in preparation for an attack.



FLIGHT FROM DANGER: Iraqi Kurdish children gather around a Kurdish woman washing her clothes in a bowl, as the others carry water to their tents set up near Kani Masi village in northern Iraq, on Sunday. Nearly 40 families living in small Kurdish village of Tirvanis, only one kilometre from Turkish border, have settled near Kani Masi, fearing the rumours of Turkish troops may enter to north Iraq. Turkey said on Sunday it ultimately planned to monitor Kurdish rebel activity in northern Iraq with an electronic system, eliminating any need to keep troops there (see page one) (Reuters photo)

British construction minister arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Minister of Construction James Clappison arrives here on Monday at the head of a 15 member delegation on a five-day visit to Jordan, during which he will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials and private sector representatives on trade and investment opportunities in the fields of tourism, airports, roads and bridges construction, ports and water.

The delegation includes senior British businessmen and officials, including construction companies, engineers, quantity surveyors, risk management and brokers, in addition to manufacturers of building materials, a statement released by the British embassy said.

The delegation will hold talks with the ministers of public works and housing, municipal and rural affairs and the environment, water and irrigation, post and communications on means of enhancing bilateral cooperation.

The delegation will visit Aqaba airport, the Aqaba Regional Authority, the Ports Corporation, and the Aqaba Thermal Power Plant, the embassy said.

U.S. attack on Iraq is fanning militant anger

DUBAI (R) — U.S. strikes on Iraq threaten to fuel the rage of militants violently opposed to the Saudi government and its American allies, analysts said on Sunday.

"The missile attacks were embarrassing for the Saudi government and they will increase anti-American sentiments in the kingdom among militants who will be angered and might carry out more violence against Americans," said a Saudi analyst, who asked to remain anonymous.

Saudi Arabia, already under attack by militants for its close ties with Washington and temporary home to some 5,000 U.S. military personnel enforcing the no-fly zone over southern Iraq, was silent as 44 U.S. cruise missiles hit Iraq last week.

Analysts said the official silence underscored the Saudi government's sensitive position following the strikes that are likely to increase militants who condemn the kingdom's rulers as subservient to the United States.

Saudi Arabia relies heavily on U.S. protection from Iraq but cannot afford to further alienate militants in the kingdom, where they were blamed for at least one of two powerful bombs that killed 24 Americans in the last year, analysts said.

"The Saudi government is trying to swing to the U.S. orchestra led by Bill Clinton but their audience at

home does not understand. They are in a fix," one analyst said.

An exiled Saudi opposition figure said the latest U.S. attacks on Iraq would strengthen militant accusations that their government's policies were heavily influenced by Washington and could trigger a violent reaction.

"The militants will see the U.S. attacks on Iraq as proof of their point that the Saudi government cannot do anything but say yes to the Americans," said Saad Al Faqih, London-based leader of the Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia.

"This will only anger them more and they may carry out more attacks against Americans," he added.

The U.S. embassy in Riyadh has advised Americans living in the kingdom to remain alert following what it called new inflammatory statements against the U.S. presence in the Gulf and U.S. missile attacks on Iraq.

Four Saudis who confessed to the November bombing in Riyadh that killed five Americans and two Indians and said they had planned more attacks on U.S. targets were beheaded in May for the attack. But the political violence did not end.

Saudi authorities are still investigating a fuel truck bombing at a military complex in eastern Saudi Ara-

bia that killed 19 U.S. servicemen in June.

The United States has vowed to protect Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states from any Iraqi threat. But the kingdom's most serious security challenge has come from underground, loosely organised militant groups.

Homegrown militancy has gained momentum since the Gulf war, when die-hard fundamentalists were enraged at the influx of half a million mostly U.S. soldiers on conservative Islamic Saudi soil.

Most Saudis are opposed to violence but analysts warned that the latest U.S. attacks on Iraq also risked spreading resentment among ordinary people in the kingdom. "It's not that there is sympathy for Saddam Hussein. But why does the U.S. speak of the human rights of the Kurds and ignore the rights of Bosnians and Israeli attacks on civilians in Lebanon?" asked a Saudi analyst.

The U.S. missiles were fired from B-52 bombers flown in from the Pacific and warships in the Gulf.

Mr. Faqih said the fact that Saudi bases were not used in the operations would do little to ease the wrath of the militants.

"There are U.S. soldiers in Saudi Arabia and attacking Iraq would not be possible if the Saudi government were not so close to the Americans," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt seeks extra security in Philippines

MANILA (AFP) — Egypt has asked the Philippines to provide additional security for its diplomats in the country amid threats from Middle East-based international extremists, a source said Sunday. In a letter from the Egyptian embassy here to the foreign department, dated Aug. 29, Cairo sought tightened security for its diplomats and flag carrier Egypt Air, saying they had been targeted by extremists. A plot to bomb Egypt Air's planes and assassinate its diplomats was uncovered by Cairo police last month, the source said, requesting anonymity. The letter did not state if the plot was targeted only against Egypt's aircraft and diplomats in the Philippines or in other countries as well, the source added. The letter did not specify the motive behind the threat, but the source said this could have been related to Egypt's involvement in the fight against international extremists, including the group of Ramzi Yousef, who was convicted Thursday for plotting to bomb U.S. commercial airliners. Additional policemen have been deployed in the vicinity of the Egyptian embassy in the financial district of Makati.

Israel wants to oust 'mafia bosses'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police want 35 suspected Russian underworld bosses from the former Soviet Union currently living in Israel to be expelled, police sources said Sunday. The 35 people are suspected of arms trafficking, pimping, money laundering, illegal gambling and extortion, the sources said. Police have given Interior Minister Eli Shussman a list of the 35 names and asked him to sign expulsion orders, they said. Police and ministry officials are due to discuss the issue within the next few days. Around 650,000 nationals from the former Soviet Union have settled in Israel since 1989, and the Russian mafia has used the exodus to gain a foothold in the Jewish state where money laundering is not covered by law.

Bahrain holds 3 for embassy attack

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahraini authorities have arrested three men accused of attacking the Russian embassy a seriously wounding a guard, newspapers reported Sunday. The Interior Ministry named the suspects Mohammad Abd Ali Jasssem Issa, a teacher, and Mohamad Redha Monazza Al Sayed Ali and Farhat Khorsli Ibra who both work for a local company. Their nationity was not given. Two gunmen shot a police guard outside the Russian embassy on Aug. 26 before escaping a getaway car driven by a third man. Bahraini officials said it was the first attack on a foreign mission in Manama since anti-government unrest erupted in the emirate in December 1994, claiming at least 24 lives. The unrest is spearheaded by Shiite Muslims calling the restoration of the parliament suspended in 1971. The Sunni Muslim-led government, and for an alleged job discrimination, Bahrain has accused Iran financing and training a "terrorist" group called Hizb al-Bahrain to overthrow the government in Manama.

Saudi suffocates in bid for freedom

CAIRO (AFP) — An elderly Saudi suffocated to death as he tried to escape from the kingdom to Egypt, a friend told a newspaper Sunday. The man, who was in his 70s, was locked in the 75-centimetre high container in a bid to escape from the Saudi authorities, a friend said. He had with him a hammer and special cutters as well as a ventilator, a bag of apples and a bag of luggage piled on top of the chest prevented him getting out once the boat had set off.

PNA to send observers to U.S.

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is to send a team to observe the United States presidential elections in November, the head of Palestinian election authority told AFP on Sunday. US embassy in Tel Aviv notified U.S. that arranger are under way to invite us to send two teams, to observe the presidential campaigns and another to observe the election results, Osama Abu Safiya said. He added the invitation has not yet been formally made and gave details on the purpose of the observers. The embassy could not be reached on Sunday. The aid will also send a team of observers to monitor elections in Bosnia, due to begin on Thursday, he without giving the size of the delegation. "Palestine" participation shows its concern that democracy take hold in all nations," Mr. Abu Safiya said, quoted in the Palestinian news service WAFA.

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15:45	World Echo
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17:15	La Vie Devant Moi
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18:00	Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part Two
19:00	Le Journal
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19:35	The Hypnotic World of Paul Mc Kenna
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20:10	The Lazarus Man
22:00	News in English
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CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefieh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785	
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Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
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AMMAN:	
Dr. Khalid Al Tushug	757253
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim	830432
Dr. Bahjat Bader	832642
Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi	893542
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
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Najib pharmacy	847632
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Dr. Ghazi Tamneh	25080
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Dr. Walid Nabhan	995743
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HOSPITAL	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381332
Khalidi Maternity	
Akileh Maternity	644281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity	642441/2
Malhass J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	607071
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir	777112/6
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)999090
FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700)	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
08:15	Sanaa (RJ)
09:00	Damascus (RJ)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
10:10	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30	Beirut (RJ)
10:30	New Delhi (RJ)
15:00	London (RJ)
17:20	Cairo (RJ)
17:45	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00	Bangkok (RJ)
00:15	Casablanca (RJ)
01:45	Jakarta (add) (RJ)
04:10	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
Other Flights	
11:45	Khartoum (SD)
13:40	Sharjah, Bahrain (GF)
14:30	Kiev (6U)
15:00	Vienna (OS)
18:30	Athens, Istanbul (Q7)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
06:35	Beirut (RJ)
12:00	Casablanca (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:15	Cairo (RJ)
13:25	London (RJ)
13:25	Frankfurt (RJ)
21:45	Damascus (RJ)
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:15	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
23:30	Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
23:45	Sanaa (RJ)
MARKET PRICE	
Upper/lower price in fils ps	
Apple	700
Banana	600
Banana (mukhammar)	520
Banana (imported)	780
Carrot	30
Cauliflower	60
Cucumber (large)	20
Cucumber (small)	320
Eggplant	22
Fig	300
Garlic	70
Grapes	42
Lemon	400
Marrow (large)	200
Marrow (small)	360
Mulukhiyah	11
Onion (dry)	16
Okra	1100
Pea	700
Pepper (hot)	340
Pepper (sweet)	400
Plum	620
Potato	250
String Bean	950
Sweet melon	400
Tomato	220
Water melon	200

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Minist

Deputising His Majesty Hussein, V of Health Bataineh opens a scientific organised Royal Centre Internatio Academy Pathology Division photo.

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First Russian troops leave Chechenya under peace plan

MOSCOW (R) — A battalion of Russian troops began pulling out of Chechenya Sunday, the first to withdraw under a peace deal signed with the rebels by Russian security chief Alexander Lebed.

ITAR-TASS news agency said the 133rd Battalion had taken part in all major combat operations in the breakaway region and had a fierce reputation among the rebels, who nicknamed it "black wing".

The peace deal signed last month provides for the withdrawal of all troops temporarily stationed in the region, but there is disagreement about what that involves.

The rebels say the fact that there were no troops in Chechenya before the conflict began in late 1994 means that all of them must pull out. But the Russian side has said that some

troops will be based there permanently.

President Boris Yeltsin added to the confusion Thursday when he broke his silence on Gen. Lebed's peace mission by saying he backed the deal but opposed the early withdrawal of troops.

Russian troop Commander Vyacheslav Tikhomirov said at a departure ceremony near the Chechen capital Grozny that the deal was the last chance for the conflict to be resolved peacefully.

"Today's attempt at a peaceful resolution of the military conflict in Chechenya is already the third. There will not be a fourth," TASS quoted him as telling reporters at the military airport where the troops had gathered.

"If this attempt fails, the issue will be resolved with other methods and means," Interfax News Agency

quoted Gen. Tikhomirov as saying that Gen. Lebed, Mr. Yeltsin's national security adviser and secretary of his Security Council, might return to Chechenya Tuesday to discuss outstanding problems with the deal.

"In the last few days quite a few questions and problems have built up which demand the direct participation of the Security Council secretary," it quoted him as saying.

"Pray God that this time it's really peace and not another case of giving up ground," Gen. Tikhomirov said. The military have complained that previous ceasefires only helped the rebels rearm and regain positions won through months of combat.

The latest deal involves a political agreement for the first time, fuelling hopes that it will bring a lasting peace.

The agreement involves postponing any decision on Chechenya's political status for five years, thereby skirting the issue at the heart of the conflict.

But it is vague on detail and critics have warned that the rebels — whose former leader declared Chechenya independent in 1991 — may use it to take power, invalidating 21 months of fighting which has killed tens of thousands of people.

TASS quoted sources close to the talks Gen. Lebed held with rebel Chief-of-Staff Aslan Maskhadov as saying that Commander Maskhadov had welcomed the departure of the 133rd Battalion, which is due to return to its base near St. Petersburg.

"That battalion is a pain in the neck, let it be the first to go," the sources quoted Commander Maskhadov as saying.

N. Ireland talks resume under expulsion cloud

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland's peace talks resume Monday with hardline Protestants demanding the expulsion of two small parties whose inclusion was initially seen as a major bonus for the entire ill-starred peace process.

Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, signalled at the weekend that he would be seeking to have the two small Protestant groups barred over a death threat against maverick "loyalist" Billy Wright.

The expulsion of the Progressive Unionist Party and Ulster Democratic Party would deprive the talks of the only representatives of gunmen whose war for and against British rule in the province has killed 3,200 in 27 years.

They are spokesmen for Protestant loyalist militia who called a truce in October 1994 to try to get their political wings involved in talks which Britain and Ireland said were the best hope for years of a lasting settlement to the conflict.

Rev. Paisley said he wanted them expelled for failing to condemn a death threat by the loyalists' umbrella organisation against Mr. Wright, a Protestant activist who challenged their participation in the negotiations.

Mr. Wright, who is said by security sources to be close to one wing of the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force guerrillas, says the talks were framed by Britain and Ireland to appease

Irish nationalists who want an end to British rule.

If the DUP and UDP were ousted, it would leave the talks dominated by parties who have failed to reconcile pro-British Protestants and pro-Irish Catholics over more than a quarter of a century.

The talks, chaired by former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, have failed to tackle a single substantive issue since they began in June and have turned into a replay of the Protestant-Catholic rivalry at the root of the conflict.

The British and Irish governments, joint sponsors of the negotiations, said last week that only talks could resolve Northern Ireland's 27-year-old "troubles." Both have publicly thrown their weight behind the Belfast negotiations.

Privately, however, Irish and British officials fear that the negotiations have been hijacked by parties representing the province's 60 per cent pro-British majority who fear the talks will lead to a dilution of Northern Ireland's British status.

"They're going absolutely nowhere," said a senior Irish official deeply involved in the talks. "It will take little short of a miracle to kickstart the process for real."

Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA guerrilla movement fighting British rule, has been barred from the negotiations from the outset because of the IRA's decision to end a 17-month ceasefire last

February.

The IRA (Irish Republican Army) says the talks are an attempt to force it to start surrendering the guns and bombs it has used to attack British security targets for decades.

Once more at war with Britain, the IRA has bombed London and a British army base in Germany since February while avoiding attacks in Northern Ireland itself for reasons it has never made clear.

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief strategist, said last week that the "state needed to be wiped clean" and an entire new peace process rebuilt, signalling no new IRA ceasefire in the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile, Northern Ireland secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew said here Saturday night that violence prevailed over the rule of law during the traditional marches by the province's Protestant community in July.

He said "the rule of law was violently, deliberately and successfully challenged" in the town of Portadown when Protestant demonstrators succeeded in forcing the police to let them follow a traditional route through a Catholic area previously declared off-limits.

The decision triggered violent clashes between the two rival communities which left one person dead and more than 340 injured.

It was the first official admission that the police had come under pressure to let the march proceed.

Addressing members of an Irish-British Association, Sir Patrick criticised "a lack of accurate insight into the intensity of feeling on both sides of the community."

Despite the long lull in violence, he said "the volcano was not extinct and when it erupted, it did so with horrifying ferocity."

"Nobody committed to peace and to the rule of law can look back on those dire events and see them as a victory.... They were a defeat for the province as a whole, for the democratic process and for all those who support and depend for their liberty upon the rule of law."

"The only people who profited from them were the sinister people on both sides who sought to manipulate the situation for their own malign ends," he said.

He said the wounds would "take, I know, a very long time to heal."

Sir Patrick said resuming the multi-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland would be "extremely difficult."

"It is clear to everyone that an unequivocal restoration of the Irish Republican Army ceasefire would be the greatest contribution to restoring confidence. Next must be the maintenance of the loyalist ceasefire," he said.



Irish film director Neil Jordan holds his "Golden Lion" trophy Saturday after winning the top award of the 53rd Venice Film Festival for his film Michael Collins (Reuters photo)

IRA film wins top prize at Venice

VENICE, Italy (R) — Michael Collins, Irish Director Neil Jordan's controversial epic about the IRA, drew top prizes at the Venice Film Festival Saturday, winning the Golden Lion Awards for best film and best actor for Liam Neeson's leading role.

The film, which also stars actress Julia Roberts, recounts the life of Collins, the IRA's former director of intelligence who helped fight for Ireland's independence from 1919 to 1921.

"Studios usually don't make movies that show at festivals like this, particularly movies which deal with difficult subjects that can give rise to arguments of all kind," Jordan said in his acceptance speech at the closing ceremony.

"I felt that Michael Collins would make a good movie, especially for Ireland," he said.

The Warner Bros production — chosen from a field of 17 films competing at the 11-day Venice Festival — has stirred controversy in Britain where some politicians have said they fear it will fan sectarian tensions in Northern Ireland. It is due for release in Britain early next year.

Jordan, in a statement released during the festival, defended his decision to make the film, to which the director devoted 13 years of research and work.

"The film spares neither the Irish nor the British in its depiction of the savagery of the time," he said. "How often has independence been achieved without bloodshed? Very rarely."

Much of the film was shot in Dublin with Jordan using thousands of its citizens as unpaid extras. A set, however, was used for the fighting scenes.

Jordan's 1992 film The Crying Game also came under fire for what was perceived as a sympathetic portrayal of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Neeson, who was nominated for an Oscar

for his role in Schindler's List, did not attend the ceremony because he was still in hospital in nearby Padua after falling ill last week in Venice with an intestinal problem.

He portrayed Collins, who was killed in an IRA ambush in 1922 after breaking with his comrades when he sought a negotiated settlement with Britain.

Aidan Quinn, Neeson's supporting actor in Michael Collins, accepted the award on his behalf and said Neeson was "deeply honoured" to receive the award and was happy with "the fantastic audiences at Venice who received the film so enthusiastically."

The Golden Lion Award for best actress went to four-year-old French actress Victoire Thivisol, who played the leading role in director Jacques Doillon's film Pontet.

Thivisol plays a girl who tries to deal with the unbearable absence of her mother who is killed in a car accident. She looks for her and waits for her and no one can convince her her mother will not return.

Doillon, in accepting the award for Thivisol, referred to the fact that some people in the audience at the film's screening earlier this week booed at the end and said they disapproved of the use of such a young actress.

"Victoire did not make this film under threats," he said.

Actor Chris Penn was awarded the best supporting actor prize for his role in American director Abel Ferrara's The Funeral in which he portrays a young mob member out to avenge his brother's killing.

A special jury award was given to Brigandini by Georgian-born director Otar Iosseliani and Britain's Ken Loach received a special medal for a film devoted to human solidarity for Carla's Song, a love story with a political background set in Nicaragua in the late 1980s.

Major bids to win over voters with mail-shot

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major, who insists he will not call a general election until next year, said Sunday he was writing to more than two million voters in key districts to convince them his policies were right.

With the ruling Conservatives trailing the opposition Labour Party by up to 30 points in opinion polls, Mr. Major has already raised the pre-election temperature with a tour around the country and a new poster campaign.

Mr. Major, who surprised pundits with his 1992 election victory, is now down to a one-seat overall majority in the 651-seat

parliament. But he said last week: "I am not going to call an election this year. The election will be next year."

He has to call one by May 1997 at the latest.

On Sunday, in an article for the tabloid News Of The World, he revealed Conservative plans for an unprecedented mail-shot to voters in 104 key constituencies where the next election could be decided.

"I know our decision to raise taxes during the worldwide recession was unwelcome. I regret the fact that we had to do it but it was the right thing to do," he wrote.

British convict holds inmates hostage at top jail

LONDON (R) — One of Britain's most violent convicts, who changed his name to honour film tough guy Charles Bronson, held two fellow inmates hostage Saturday in a tense eight-hour stand-off that ended peacefully. Officials said Bronson, who had taken prisoners hostage before at the high-security Belmarsh Jail in southeast London, finally surrendered and was removed to a segregation unit. Bronson, whose original name was Michael Peterson, had initially taken four inmates hostage but then freed two of them. The two remaining hostages were taken to the prison hospital after their release, "but it is clear that they have sustained no serious injuries," a prison spokesman said. Bronson had been twice involved in hostage dramas and at least 20 attacks on guards and inmates. "He is a 24-carat nutter (madman). Among guards, Bronson is the most despised man in Britain. He can't stay out of prison. It's his religion," one prison officer said. During the siege, the Prison Service said one or more of those involved were Iraqi men accused of hijacking a Sudanese jet to London's Stansted Airport last month. After the stand-off ended, however, the service refused to discuss the identity of the hostages. The Iraqi men, who are due to appear in court Monday, have claimed political asylum in Britain, saying they were persecuted while in Iraq. Their court appearance means they will face trial and possible imprisonment in Britain before their applications for asylum are considered.

French activists protest against town begging ban

TOULOUSE, France (R) — French civil rights activists protested a ban on begging in the town of Millau imposed by Mayor Jacques Godefridi, who also is France's minister for overseas cooperation. Up to 1,000 demonstrators from around France, marched in Millau, one of several southern towns that outlawed begging or sitting or lying in the streets at the start of the tourist season this year.

Singapore may consider castration of child molesters

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore may consider penalising child molesters with castration following a landmark initiative in California, Chief Justice Yong Pung How said in remarks published here. The Straits Times said Judge Yong spoke of castration when he threw out an appeal by an incorrigible sex offender who was sentenced to 20 years' preventive detention and 24 strokes of the cane for molesting five schoolboys. "In California, they are trying to get a bill passed for cases like these, where the offenders will be castrated or injected to reduce their sexual potency," Judge Yong was quoted as saying. "This may well be considered in places like Singapore." Largely crime-free Singapore already has tough laws that make it one of the world's safest cities. Death by hanging is mandatory here for murder and drug trafficking, while caning is imposed for certain crimes. California last month became the first U.S. state to require either the "chemical" or surgical castration of repeat child molesters. The state assembly passed a bill that requires anyone convicted of two sexual assaults on minors to be injected with a drug that reduces the sex drive. If they choose not to be surgically castrated at government expense, Governor Pete Wilson has promised to sign it into law.

Michael Jackson launches comeback tour in Prague

PRAGUE (R) — Pop star Michael Jackson launched his first concert tour in three years Saturday with a high-tech spectacle in Prague aimed at restoring a career tarnished by allegations of child molestation.

Jackson exploded through the floor of his futuristic stage and emerged in gold-plated astronaut's armour to open the concert with one of his latest hits, Scream.

On a stage blending a classical Greek temple with a space station, Jackson matched the high tech wizardry with his formidable dancing skills, singing many of the hits of his 20-year career.

The three-month HIStory world tour will take hundreds of tonnes of equipment to stops in Europe, Africa, Asia, but with no dates scheduled for the Americas.

Many of the estimated 120,000 spectators on Prague's sprawling Letna Plain — where Communist leaders once reviewed military parades — stood awestruck as massive "jumbotrons" video screens dominated Jackson's virtual-reality show.

"It's more of a video game than a concert," said one Prague student as she stood

in the crowd mid-way from where the real Jackson looked like a blip on a radar screen.

Fans from Malta to Moscow made the trip to Prague, but the biggest of the 40,000-strong foreign contingent came from neighbouring Germany where Jackson had cancelled planned stops because of high taxes charged to visiting entertainers.

Some 130,000 people were expected for the two-hour concert in Prague, but ticket touts outside the gates were offering \$30 tickets for less than \$10.

Czech President Vaclav Havel — dubbed "rock'n roll president" as a fan of the Rolling Stones, Velvet Underground and Frank Zappa, who have all played in Prague — showed up although he said Jackson's music "isn't close" to him.

The first part of the tour has a heavy Eastern European flavour with stops planned for Hungary, Romania, Poland, and Russia, matching a theme running through the HIStory album which includes the song Stranger In Moscow.

The first tour of the self-proclaimed "King of Pop" since 1993's Dangerous tour is to back HIStory, which has lagged well behind his 1982 album Thriller, the all-



American pop megastar Michael Jackson (left) performs during the beginning of his concert in Prague Saturday. Jackson launched in Prague his new world tour HIStory in front of an estimated 120,000 spectators (Reuters photo)

time top seller with 44 million copies sold worldwide. But the tour marks the biggest effort yet to get Jackson's career back on track after a long-running scandal over child-sex abuse allegations.

The charges first came to light in August 1993, when a 13-year-old boy accused Jackson of molesting him. Jackson denied wrongdoing but reached a multimillion-dollar settlement with

the boy, and prosecutors dropped their investigation in 1994 after the child refused to testify.

The concert marks the climax of five of the most bizarre days in the history of the ancient Czech capital, as the star's game of hide-and-seek kept a horde of fans and media guessing outside his hotel, and clogged streets in the city's centre.

Reports that Jackson was furious with a local tabloid's

rehash of the child molestation story led local media to speculate that he might cancel Saturday's concert as he remained holed-up in his hotel suite for much of the week.

On Friday, Jackson sparked a near-riot when he ventured out to visit St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague Castle, and fans climbed over pews in the holy Bohemian shrine to get close.



Organisers carry away a girl who passed out during American pop megastar Michael Jackson's concert in Prague. Jackson launched his new world tour HIStory in Prague in front of an estimated 120,000 fans, with dozens of fans treated for exhaustion but no serious injuries were reported (Reuters photo)

World

Hurricane

Okinawa

Jordan Times

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Timely move

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to sell 31 million shares worth \$152 million to the private sector is a significant, albeit belated, move that comes after years of talk about privatisation. Together with earlier measures, notably the lifting of bread and fodder subsidies and the raising of water and electricity prices, the government seems to be determined to cross the point of no return in its quest to end its intervention in the economy and leave it to the efficient forces of the market.

If the government continues to press ahead with its drive to privatise ill-managed entities, we will see greater numbers of services ending up in the hands of the private sector. And if we go by the experience of other countries and by what economists say, it is hoped that such drive will ultimately lead to a much healthier economy.

Two points need to be taken into consideration while embarking on this tremendous task, however. Making sure that this would not affect the lives of the workers, who spent years with these corporations, and ensuring that the abolition of state monopoly would not be replaced by the more destructive private monopoly.

The case of the defunct Sawt Al Shaab daily and its stranded 60 odd employees should not elude the minds of the planners and executors of the private sector takeover. The terms of the selling of state shares to the private sector should take note of the difficulties of the transitional period, especially in relation to employees who should be given new training in order to enable them to either remain with the sold companies or find employment elsewhere.

During these difficult times, we can ill-afford adding even one more person to the ranks of the unemployed. Companies should be able to train, retrain and relocate employees instead of dismissing them as has been the case in previous cases.

Meanwhile, the monopoly that the Telecommunication Corporation and the Public Transport Corporation used to have, for example, should not in any way be accorded to the private sector. Monopoly, the capitalist societies have found through hard-won experience, is the anti-thesis to the market place and sound competitiveness. No individual nor group of individuals should be allowed to form trusts or cartels.

Transparency during the whole process of privatisation and afterwards not only lends credibility to this massive undertaking but wins it support from all those involved. Here, the media, both state and private, should help in the process through thorough, in-depth and accurate coverage. Privatisation is a desirable thing that, if executed in a proper and fair way, should lead to the well-being of society and the strengthening of state.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Rai Sunday drew a contrast between the stands of the United States and France with regard to the Middle East question as apparent in the recent declarations in Washington and Paris. Differences in views between the two sides surfaced most recently on the Iraqi question when Paris opposed Washington's plans to extend the no-fly zone over Iraq and expressed dissatisfaction with the U.S. missile attacks on Iraq, said Hussein Abu Rumman. Indeed the American behaviour in the Middle East has been embarrassing not only France but Washington's other European allies in the question of imposing sanctions to punish European firms trading or investing in Libya, Iran and Cuba, said the writer. French President Jacques Chirac has openly declared the return of France to the Middle East area and has indeed taken steps towards that goal when his country interfered in the latest Israeli aggression on Lebanon and the shelling of a U.N. position in Qana, killing 100 Lebanese civilians. In addition, France has voiced its support for the need to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the Madrid peace conference and the exchange of land for peace, noted the writer. Chirac, who has announced plans to tour the Middle East next month, seems determined to involve France, in deed rather than word, in the region's issues; and according to the writer, such development in the French stand is bound to bring in new elements to the peace process provided that the Arabs display a concerted stand in support of the French moves.

A WRITER for Al Dustour expressed the view that the crisis which resulted from the government's decisions to lift bread subsidies marked the actual start of parliamentary election campaigns in the country. When the deputies demanded the government to convene a special parliamentary session to discuss the question of subsidies they were motivated by the urge to air their views in Parliament in such a way that would contribute to their campaigns for the 1997 parliamentary elections, said Mohammad Subeichi. Certain groups among the parliamentarians who adamantly insisted that the government rescind its decision on the subsidies were hoping that such stand would eventually benefit their efforts towards reelection, he charged. Some present and former deputies worked together in order to secure the downfall of their colleagues serving as ministers in the present government for political or other reasons and so they arranged for a campaign to start in Parliament first, and then move to the streets, continued the writer. He said whether the deputies who are also members of the Cabinet and those deputies who supported the government's stand would retain their seats in the 1997 elections is a matter on which the public will decide through the ballot.

Economic Review

Tragedy and the quarry

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

POLLUTION COMES in a variety of ways. Two of the most obvious forms of pollution in Amman are noise and dust, which have truly become a source of annoyance to the residents of this ever expanding city whose population and land seem to grow exponentially — something to which Malthus, the famous economist, never alluded. And since buildings seem to grow endlessly, maximising the welfare of the builders, the welfare of Amman's inhabitants are not to be concomitantly maximised. Von-Neumann and Morgenstern (the forebears of the wonderful science of game theory) stated clearly in a mathematical law formulated in 1945, that we cannot maximise two things at the same time. In other words, the builders' happiness and our happiness cannot be maximised at the same time, which also means that Jeremy Bentham's goal of "the greatest good for the greatest number" cannot be achieved — goodbye socialism.

Furthermore, the unlikely maximisation of both the citizens' and the builders' welfare mirrors the "tragedy of the commons," an important theory that is applied by economists to problems of strategy and to situations of conflict of interest.

The tragedy of the commons develops in the following manner: Imagine a field that is open to any one. Each shepherd is expected to keep as many sheep as possible on the common field. Each shepherd asks himself the question, "What do I gain from adding one more sheep to my herd?" The shepherd gains the proceeds from selling the addition-

al sheep and the cost of overgrazing is shared by the other shepherds. In other words, as his welfare improves, the welfare of others will decrease. A sensible person will automatically add another sheep to his herd, and another and another and so forth. However, this is also the conclusion that is reached by all the other rational shepherds that are sharing the field with him. Herein lies the tragedy of the commons: Freedom leads to ruin as each individual rushes in the pursuit of his self-interest in a society that believes in the freedom of the commons.

What happened to what Adam Smith called the "invisible hand" of the market? It does not exist in the commons. People when given the freedom to acquire in the commons they will go on acquiring indefinitely, and hurt others while pursuing their self-interest.

The tragedy of the commons can explain many phenomena:

- Pollution where the rational person finds that the cost of placing his pollutants into the commons is shared by others while his gains (savings from not having to dispose of the waste in a more appropriate fashion) are private.

- Wastage (the use of contacts to secure economic rent from the government) where interference to hire someone into a publicly owned organisation carries no private cost to the parties involved and carries a minimal private cost.

- In addition to the above two phenomena, tourism between Jordan and Israel is an excellent example of the tragedy of the commons. Some sites such as the Red Sea,

the Dead Sea and the Jordan River are shared by Israel and Jordan. Both countries thrive to attract tourists to their respective areas and are constantly looking for industries to benefit from the wealth that is afforded them by such sites. At the same time, each country wants to maximise its welfare from tourism revenue, and mining, as in the case of the Dead Sea, while shifting part of the cost to the other party. In the case of the Jordan River, the story of Israel taking more than its fair share is testimony to the applicability of the tragedy to this situation where Israel behaved freely without considering the welfare of Jordanians. Or building an airport in Aqaba that serves both Eilat and Aqaba, in which case the pollution will be dumped on the Jordanian side while the benefits of increased tourism will be shared by both. One solution is to appeal to the conscience of both parties, but the problem here is the cultural diversity of the people in both countries and their response to different stimulus.

So how can we resolve the problem of Amman becoming a quarry? First, we must recognise the very nature of the tragedy of the commons. Second, we must shift some of the social cost to the private party that is polluting the once beautiful city of Amman by imposing fines and environmentally friendly ordinances (recall that one source of the tragedy is the freedom to use the commons without regulation). Third, by appealing to the conscience of all those that love this city, to not turn it into a quarry.

Attack against Iraq once again depicts U.S. double standards

By Michael Jansen

THE LATEST crisis between Iraq and the U.S. has exposed, once again, the curious contradiction between what people frankly say they are doing and what is perceived on the international scene.

Thus, U.S. Pentagon spokesmen truthfully and frankly proclaimed that the U.S., through its missile attacks last week, has destroyed a significant portion of Iraq's "air defences" in the southern part of the country. As a result the world heaves a sigh of relief and says, "Saddam cannot launch another attack against its neighbours." As the Americans put it:

But world opinion would be wrong. Pentagon spokesmen said nothing about Iraq's "defences," only its "defences." Iraq's very limited offensive capabilities, concentrated in units of the elite Republican Guards, remain intact and on the way home from massing on the edge of the northern Kurdish area. Iraq intervened only when it was clear that this zone was in danger of being dominated by Iran via one of the Kurdish parties, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which is disputing control of the northern "safe haven" established by the Western powers in 1991 with the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP).

American action has not stripped Iraq of offensive capability but defensive capability, leaving the Sunni centre of the country open to straightforward Iranian attack or subversion. And this lack of defensive capability has been turned into a dangerous liability by the extension of the U.S.-imposed and Patrolled aerial exclusion zone from the 32nd to the 33rd parallel, shutting down two major "defensive" Iraqi airbases and putting out of action Iraqi radar cover for Baghdad. As a result the centre of Iraq, the core of the populous, oil-rich heartland of the eastern Arab World is now open to attack or subversion from Iraq's traditional non-Arab antagonists, Shia Iran and various secular Turkey.

This policy of hitting Iraq in its "defensive" capability is a flagrant violation of the U.N. Charter, Chapter VII, Article 51, which reaffirms the right of every nation to self-defence. The U.S. action is also in violation of Security Council Resolution 687 and 688 which state that nothing should be done to impair the "territorial integrity and sovereignty (and independence) of Iraq."

The U.S. and its ally Britain have long striven to deprive Iraq of its power and authority in the Arab World. The regime of Saddam Hussein is only the current pretext for doing so. Traditionally these Western two powers have tried to destabilise Iraq by encourag-



ing the traditionally fractious Kurds to oppose Baghdad. This politically profitable endeavour came to a temporary end in 1975 when Iran and Iraq signed the Algiers agreement and the Kurds came close to reaching an accommodation with Baghdad which gave them full partnership in the Iraqi state. An accommodation which, unfortunately failed, due to Western intervention, and split the Kurds into the present parties.

The most recent problem with this policy is that the warring Kurdish factions are more determined to wipe each other out than to resist Baghdad or Tehran, considered by Washington more of a threat to its interests than Iraq. Inconsistently, the U.S. sees as a threat the temporary and opportunist alliance between the KDP of Massoud Barzani and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The object of this alliance is to drive the Iranian-supported PUK of Jalal Talabani from control over the regional capital of Erbil, captured by Talabani in 1994. The KDP-Baghdad and PUK-Tehran marriages are mutually beneficial marriages of convenience. But Washington has recognised only one of these, the most convenient, that between the KDP and Baghdad.

This is a marriage which cannot be countenanced by the U.S. and U.K. which will do all they can to bring about a prompt divorce. They are prepared to tolerate Iranian interference in Iraq's internal affairs as the price of breaking the connection between Baghdad and the Barzani KDP. This means that the U.S. is ready to see Iraq's "territorial integrity and sovereignty" subverted in the north while in the south the U.S. and Britain weaken Iraq's "defences" by extending the aerial exclusion zone.

And to add insult to injury the U.S. has, according to State Department spokesman Glyn Davies, approved the establishment by Ankara of a "security zone," some 20 kilometres deep, in northern Iraq along the common border between Iraq and Turkey. This amounts to nothing less than an invasion of Iraqi territory by Turkey, a non-Arab power allied to the U.S. which is accused of long-standing designs on Iraqi territory in the oil-rich Mosul province. Ankara's rationale for this occupation is the existence of a dozen buses set up by Turkish Kurds seeking independence from the Turkish state. However, it would seem to be more reasonable and practical if Turkey were to set up its "security zone" on its side of the frontier in order to prevent Turkish Kurds from escaping into northern Iraq and then raiding back into Turkey from there. For it is up to Turkey to keep its "citizens" (however dissident) at home and not to breach Iraqi sovereignty because the Turkish army is inept and inefficient enough to allow large numbers of Turkish Kurds rebels to reach relative security in northern Iraq.

U.S.-approved "security zones" have a tendency to become permanent and a source of instability, as the Israeli "security zone" in South Lebanon demonstrates. Such a zone in northern Iraq could, like the zone in Lebanon, become a focus of attacks by local Iraqi Kurds (and others) seeking to liberate Iraqi national territory from Turkish occupiers. Thus, such a zone could produce a wholly new conflict in an already conflict-ridden locale.

The Pentagon, as naively honest as always, has also admitted that at least half of the 44 "cruise" missiles launched on Monday and Tuesday did not reach their targets. This means that 22 must have gone astray: "Where have all the cruises gone?... long time passing..." if one was to adapt a hit song of the idealistic sixties. So far no one has traced these missing missiles. Whom have they killed and why? The first question has yet to be answered but not the second. Not the why. The "cruise" smart missiles are not so

smart as claimed by the Pentagon. This correspondent was in Baghdad in January 1993 when Washington made its last but one attack against the Iraqi capital. At that time 40 "cruises" were launched at Baghdad. 21 landed on target, six fell elsewhere in Baghdad, including in the garden of the Rashid Hotel, killing several staff and guests and nearly wiping out the CNN television team which was on the roof filming. And the rest, a few fell on poor quarters of the Iraqi capital killing people who have no claim to fame. The others, who knows? Some fell in the sea, some in the desert. Did they do damage, cause casualties? No one knows and no one cares.

All in all the latest American offensive against Baghdad has been a fraud and a failure. A fraud because it had nothing to do with Iraq's justified intervention in the dispute between the Kurds in the northern "safe haven" while it had everything to do with Bill Clinton's election campaign in the U.S. And a failure because the campaign wrecked the 1991 Gulf war alliance and demonstrated once again to the Arabs the double standard practised by the U.S. in dealing with different regional problems. Israel was strongly supported by Clinton in its assault on Lebanon, a foreign land partially occupied by the Jewish state in April, while Iraq was attacked by missiles when it attempted to intervene, at the invitation of half the Kurds, against Iranian-sponsored Kurds operating within Iraq's national territory.

But, then, as Abdul Barri Atwan, editor of the London daily Al Quds, said recently, Iraq is a "cheap and soft" target for American presidential candidates to use to boost their popularity. But popularity is ephemeral, quickly dissipated. Bill Clinton may have to act decisively, to make war, on this or another front before the November election if the electoral boost is to take effect.

LETTERS

Save Wadi Mujib!

To the Editor:

I REFER to the letter from Nadine Shubailat, Water versus Nature, August 28. The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature shares Miss Shubailat's concern about the proposal to extract 54 million metres of water each year from Wadi Mujib (Letter, Jordan Times, August 28). The Wadi lies at the heart of the Mujib Nature Reserve which was established by RSCN to protect one of the best examples of natural habitat and scenery in Jordan.

A recent ecological survey has revealed that Wadi Mujib is the single most important feature of the reserve, supporting several unique and endangered plants and animals. Furthermore, the Wadi is the most spectacular scenic feature along the Dead Sea coast, attracting thousands of visitors each year. The extraction proposal involves the construction of a diversion weir across the Wadi which will channel virtually all the river water out of the reserve, leaving the lower 3.5 kilometres of the Wadi, including the spectacular sandstone gorge fronting the Dead Sea, completely dry for 80 per cent of the year.

RSCN believes that this extraction scheme should be reassessed for three main reasons: First, it contravenes the fundamental purpose of the nature reserve, which is to ensure that the area remains as near to its natural state as possible. Second, it poses a serious threat to the most significant ecological feature of the reserve, which itself is of international importance. And third, it reduces greatly the tourism potential of the reserve and its surroundings.

In essence the proposal to build the dam across one of the last wild and clean river systems in Jordan is about trading one national treasure (our natural heritage) for another (fresh water). RSCN fully understands the dilemma but feels that in this case it is important to ask whether the anticipated uses of the water (none of which is for drinking) can justify the environmental costs. Jordan has signed international conventions for the conservation of species and has an obligation to demonstrate its commitment to these conventions. For these reasons, RSCN is calling for the following actions to be taken:

- The extraction scheme should be subject to a full Environmental Impact Assessment, in line with international standards and practice.
- The anticipated cost benefits of the scheme should be reassessed in the light of environmental losses.
- The use of the water for arid-land agriculture should be seriously questioned.
- The implications for tourism and recreation should be properly assessed.
- The feasibility of alternatives and especially siting the dam outside the nature reserve should be immediately examined.
- The public should be allowed to enter the debate and present their views.

RSCN is very keen to work constructively with the Jordan Valley Authority and other agencies to find another way to supply the water needed for projects around the Dead Sea, so that the Mujib River can stay in its natural state, maintaining its special ecology and bringing pleasure to thousands of people.

Khaled Irani,
Acting Director General, RSCN

Harmful habit

To the Editor:

RECENTLY my wife and I went to one of the coffee shops near where we live. While there, a group of youngsters aged 13 to 20 from both sexes came in and ordered some hubble-bubble, topped with apple-perfumed, cherry-perfumed, or honey-perfumed tobacco. At the same time, others were smoking. How do the youngsters get the habit of smoking? It is because they follow the example of other people around them.

Youngsters feel it makes them grown-ups when they smoke. Encouraged by their peers, and by the fact that their parents smoke, they start smoking too. From 40 to 55 per cent of youngsters become smokers when they get 17. By the age of 25, about 60 per cent of men and 36 per cent of women are smokers. Smoking reflects a variety of emotional and physical needs, conscious and unconscious. The effect that smoking has on a person then acts to strengthen the habit. Tobacco contains a number of harmful substances, including poisonous substances such as nicotine, various irritants, and cancer-producing compounds. Smoking one or two cigarettes causes an increase in heart rate and a slight rise in blood pressure. Anyone who smokes regularly might develop breathing problems and chronic cough. He/she often complains of exhaustion and loss of appetite. These complaints may not be serious, but there can be other symptoms of serious conditions associated with smoking. If they persist, a doctor should be consulted.

Husam Khaldi,
Amman

Regent: Jordan is committed to free market economy

(Continued from page 1)

decision-making process is essential for the development of political and social democracy.

The Prince said that the availability of research and information is essential for a suitable decision-making process but cannot be applied alone because it might lead to decisions that do not take note of the nature of people and their ambitions.

Nor will taking the decision by the side which has the jurisdiction to take them ensure a sufficient process because that might concentrate too much political power in the hands of one authority which could threaten the democratic process.

He also said the "public choice" should also not govern the decision-making process alone.

What is needed, he said, is decision-making based on those three factors, respecting scientific research, acknowledging the laws and the separation of powers between the branches of government and understanding the choices of people.

Prince Hassan recognised the role of the press in the building of civil society and the political process, saying that role of the press in measuring public opinion should be encouraged.

But he warned that personal and partisan objectives of some journalists cannot be ruled out. He said laws alone cannot ensure an objective press and society. Members of the press must develop their own mechanism to maintain a respectable and professional media, he said.

Prince Hassan said that all factors which should enable the Kingdom to build the society with which it wants to enter the next century such as education, production, the prevalence of law and openness to world exist and the art of modern management on the basis of institutionalised, transparency and practical criteria is major element that is lacking.

He said efforts should focus on building modern management because postponing dealing with problems can only exacerbate them.

The Crown Prince said that since its establishment, the Kingdom has been blessed with leaderships who saw themselves as the arbiters to whom people refer and find comfort about their vision, neutrality and true desire to have justice prevail.

He said the political stability which Jordan has enjoyed has enabled it to deal with the challenges it has faced without creating divisions in society.

Prince Hassan said that the interests of Jordan dictate that it opens up to the world while it protects these interests by developing competitive economic performance and a political performance based on participation. These are basic conditions for maintaining national security and social stability.

Stressing that Jordan has always sought strong ties and interaction with Arab countries, the Crown Prince said that Arab relations are going through a test, especially after Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu was elected as

Israeli premier.

The Crown Prince said that Jordan made peace with Israel but not at the expense of ties with other Arab countries.

He said that Jordan maintained contact with the Israeli opposition when it was led by Mr. Netanyahu despite the objections of many on the grounds that contacts with Jewish and Israeli leaders could mean compromising on rights.

But the Crown Prince said that Jordan never lacked the courage to stand up for what it believes in. Also the ties which Jordan has developed with Mr. Netanyahu have come to serve other Arabs.

The return of Likud to power in Israel has created new conditions which had to be dealt with wisdom.

"But we will not build a relationship with Israel at the expense of Arab relations. This is a deep-rooted Jordan position and difference in opinion with our brethren will not stop us from continuing this policy," said the Crown Prince.

Criticising Israel's policy on occupied Jerusalem and settlements as a provocation to Arab and Muslim feelings, Prince Hassan said that Jordan has worked to prevent the Judaisation of Islamic shrines in the Holy City by keeping them under its jurisdiction.

He said that even after Israel unilaterally and illegally annexed Jerusalem it respected Jordan's jurisdiction over religious shrines and "we fought efforts that unintentionally aimed at putting the holy shrines under the threat of Judaisation."

Yet some accused Jordan of trying to achieve personal ambitions from its position to keep the holy shrines under its jurisdiction, a position which was strengthened in the peace treaty with Israel, he said.

"Such is always the case with Jordan, which tries to anticipate the future but its goals are misinterpreted" intentionally by those who wish it harm and unintentionally by the short-sighted, he said.

He said Jordan has worked to make sure that its ties with the Palestinians are not governed by the "zero-option" formula.

"We wanted to give so that not to allow any difference with the Palestinian National Authority to reflect on our domestic front," said the Prince, who reiterated Jordan's support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

He said the ties with Syria are based on mutual respect and the desire for a stable relations.

He said that as he had anticipated, Syria came under pressure from Israel after the Israeli elections but the Arab summit in Cairo in June and Syria's coordination with Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians played a role in reducing this pressure.

As for Iraq, "it saddens us, the Hashemites" to see Iraqis suffer "and we are looking for the solution that we believe will end the suffering of the people."

Stressing the strength of Jordan's relationship with the Iraqi people, Prince Hassan said the Iraqi role will, be

missed more in the future in two dimensions. The first is its role in keeping the balance of power in the Gulf area and the second is when comprehensive peace in the region is achieved.

"Our relationship with Iraq is a stable human relation, not an unstable emotional one," said Prince Hassan.

Prince Hassan said Jordan recognises Egypt's ability to play a major role in the pursuit of comprehensive peace. He drew attention to Egypt's assertive role in resolving problems resulting from the Israeli position and in seeking coordination with Arab states to reach a unified stand.

"We in Jordan support this new role of the Egyptian diplomacy and stress our concern for its continuity so that goals for which it was started are achieved," he said.

Prince Hassan said that relations with the Arab Gulf states should be based on futuristic new concepts that are based on consultation, mutual respect and useful exchange of goods and services.

He said oil should not remain the main factor in relations with the Gulf because the relationship should be based on equality and the ability to achieve mutual gains. What is required, he said, is opening the Gulf markets for Jordanian labour, goods and services while opening Jordan to Gulf investment and exports, especially from countries that have diversified their economies.

The Regent said the complications that resulted from the Gulf war should end, especially that it has become clear the Jordan's position during the war was misrepresented.

Prince Hassan said it is wrong to assume that Gulf states do not favour "a reasonable relation with Iraq or Syria". The opposite is correct, he said, and ties with Iraq will not be the price for good relations with the Gulf which is something that is rejected by the Gulf states themselves.

"We are at the threshold of a new start with the Gulf," said Prince Hassan.

The Prince stressed the importance of maintaining balanced ties with the Arab and Muslim World where by Jordan will enjoy good relations with Turkey, Iran and Iraq as well as Pakistan and India without compromising "our position but through respecting all and dealing with them on clear and transparent basis."

"The events that await us are many, and Jordan cannot face the challenges alone," said Prince Hassan. But the country, he said, can become a good example and an active centre of intellectual dialogue.

"Responsible freedom, democracy and the balance between authorities are no longer a luxury that can we do without. They have become necessities and the vibrant people do not lie to itself or to its leaders," said Prince Hassan.

"We, the Hashemite leadership, believe people and constitute to them the reference and the just governance," he said.

The challenges are many, said Prince Hassan, and "if we succeed in facing them we will be able" to cope with the change of the next millennium.

KDP boosted by Iraqi army

(Continued from page 1)

PUK fighters and demanded the rest surrender.

The Iraqi army was now preparing an assault on Sulaimaniyah, the PUK appealed for international help to halt what it called an "Iraqi onslaught."

"In the face of very heavy artillery and tank firepower, the assault succeeded in overwhelming the Kurdish defences of Koi Sanjaq," a PUK statement said.

"Urgent and decisive help is needed. We call on the U.S.-led coalition to move urgently to stop the Iraqi onslaught."

There was no independent confirmation of direct Iraqi involvement in the clashes, which the KDP denied.

An aid worker said more than 800 people had fled from Koi Sanjaq and that fierce fighting was continuing around the town for control of Haybat Sultan, a mountain peak controlling access to Sulaimaniyah.

U.N. relief agencies in Sulaimaniyah decided Sunday to halt operations for three days. Kurds in the area spat at U.N. cars because of the world body's failure to intervene and stop the fighting.

Mr. Talabani fled to Sulaimaniyah after his base in Erbil, 200 kilometres to the northwest, fell on Aug. 31.

KDP radio reported earlier Sunday that its Peshmerga fighters were in control of Degala and pushing on towards Koi Sanjaq.

A KDP statement said: "The operation is carried out by KDP forces to foil the PUK threat against Erbil."

"There is absolutely no Iraqi military involvement and participation in the operation," it said, adding that PUK forces were "demoralised and have sustained heavy losses."

But the PUK said: "Saddam Hussein's army remains in Iraqi Kurdistan in force. The world community must not turn away as his henchmen attack the Kurdish people."

U.S. warships and warplanes fired 44 cruise missiles at military targets in southern Iraq on Tuesday and Wednesday to punish Baghdad for sending troops into the Kurdish "safe haven" set up after the 1991 Gulf war.

Baghdad claimed to have pulled its forces out of the region after seizing Erbil from the PUK and handing it over to KDP forces.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said Sunday that there were no longer any Iraqi troops in the north of the country, according to his latest information.

Speaking on private radio Europe 1, Mr. de Charette said that it was a "fact that all the indications that we have up to now anyway, confirm."

"The Iraqis intervened for two days to allow one of the Kurdish factions to take over the town of Erbil, then they pulled out," Mr. de Charette said.

"There is no desire in the international community to separate the north of Iraq from the rest of the country," Mr. de Charette said. "We all believe that stability in this region presumes that Iraq is kept inside its frontiers."

France has strongly criticised the U.S. retaliatory strikes against Iraq, causing a split between Washington and some of its close allies.

Opposition members who fled Erbil after its capture by Iraqi troops appealed for political asylum abroad, saying suicide was better than falling into the hands of President Saddam.

"We have no way out. We

are ready to commit suicide," said a man who identified himself only as a representative of Ahmad Chalabi, leader of the London-based Iraqi National Congress (INC) opposition coalition.

Most of the hundreds seeking asylum were allied for the past five years with the KDP, which controls the mountain town of Sulahuddin, in opposing the Baghdad government.

"We chose to side with the opposition in 1991 to fight Saddam Hussein and came here thinking it was a protected area," he added.

"Now Saddam can attack us any time he wants," the INC official protested. He fled "by his own means" from Iraqi tanks as they entered Erbil, south of Sulahuddin.

At the request of the KDP, which itself has some 200 members in the INC, he has moved into a Sulahuddin hotel, the INC's new headquarters after the sacking of their Erbil offices by the Iraqi military.

About 600 other people, mainly families, took refuge in other towns under KDP control.

The spokesman charged that the Iraqi military had killed 104 people. Around

250 INC members were missing in Erbil, some of whom had been jailed in Mosul, outside the Kurdish "safe haven."

The INC's radio and television stations in Sulahuddin have been cordoned off and its members in the town have opted not to criticise the KDP's new alliance with Baghdad.

"We chose of our own free will to come to Kurdistan. Nobody is bothering us, except from the military or geographical situation," the spokesman said.

But "as the Iraqi opposition, we feel uneasy. We are not free," he acknowledged. "We are asking the international community to help us as soon as possible to escape and to get political asylum."

The INC has in a statement called on its "dear KDP brothers to pursue their humanitarian action" while allowing contact with international organisations such as the United Nations and International Red Cross.

Most of the INC members who fled to Sulahuddin are Shiite Muslim Arabs who deserted the Iraqi army.

Iraq warns Turkey

(Continued from page 1)

said that London was seeking details from Turkey about its intentions on the Iraqi border.

Speaking to reporters at the EU foreign ministers' meeting, Mr. Rifkind said he wanted to know whether Turkish moves on the border were designed to protect it from a sudden flow of refugees, or whether there was "some wider

purpose."

"We are still seeking further clarification," he said.

On Saturday, Mr. Rifkind appeared to break from his EU partners by saying that countries would understand if Turkey took action on the Iraqi border to protect itself from a refugee surge.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had said much the same in

London earlier in the day. The EU ministers, however, publicly stated that the territorial integrity of all countries in the region had to be protected.

Meanwhile, Turkish security forces stepped up land and air operations against Kurdish separatists on Sunday after the rebels shot dead nine government troops in an ambush.

Security officials said up to 20,000 troops,

backed by helicopters, were involved in the latest move against Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas, waging a 12-year fight for self-rule. More than 20,000 people have died in the insurgency.

"Heavy clashes are continuing since last night and we suspect the death toll and casualties may mount," said a military official who asked not to be identified.

The theatre of operations included a triangle formed by the provinces of Tunceli, Erzurum and Bingol, the security sources said.

The state-run Anatolian news agency said two Turkish troops and two PKK guerrillas were killed in a clash on Sunday in Genc township, Bingol province. Three soldiers "were also injured."

Arafat, Mordechai

(Continued from page 1)

must be reciprocal.

Following talks in London with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who urged Israel to take "concrete steps" after the meeting between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat, Mr. Levy said: "The question of reciprocity is fundamental."

Mr. Levy told a joint news conference with Mr. Christopher: "We will go as quickly as it takes to ensure success and to ensure reciprocal agreements."

Mr. Christopher and Mr. Levy met at the U.S. ambassador's residence ahead of talks in Washington on Monday between Mr. Netanyahu and President Bill Clinton. Mr. Christopher, who was returning to Washington later on Sunday, will attend that meeting but Mr. Levy is not expected to be there.

The secretary of state said that, in addition to trying to keep the Israeli-Palestinian peace process moving forward, the United States was continuing to work with Israel and Syria to restart negotiations which broke down in May.

"Both Israel and Syria have indicated a desire to resume discussions" and Washington is working to "find an appropriate basis" on which to do that, Mr. Christopher said.

The Israeli and Palestinian chief negotiators are to meet on Monday to fix a timetable and agenda for talks on implementing the Oslo self-rule accords, Israeli radio said.

Israeli retired General Dan Shomron and Palestinian Local Government Minister Saeb Erekat will meet in the autonomous West Bank town of Jericho, the radio said.

The two men met for the first time two weeks ago after a three-month hiatus in talks following the election of Mr. Netanyahu's hardline, right-wing government.

The joint committee headed by Mr. Erekat and Gen. Shomron is to oversee the implementation of parts of the Oslo agreements which have been suspended, especially the Israeli army's partial redeployment from Hebron, already five months behind schedule.

GCC condemns Turkey, Iran

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday that Baghdad had backtracked on its demand "in order not to create a split, given that some Gulf countries do not disapprove of the U.S. action."

"Baghdad believed that an objection from one of these countries would have dealt a blow to the Arab solidarity behind Iraq in the face of the U.S. attack," the official said.

In their statement on Sunday the GCC states also called on Iran to end what they said was its occupation of three Gulf islands also claimed by the United Arab Emirates.

The GCC statement said Iran was trying to maintain "the status quo by force" on the Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb islands, which lie near key oil shipping lanes.

"The council of ministers expressed its condemnation for the continuous Iranian steps on the UAE islands...It amounts to a violation of UAE sovereignty and aggression on its rights...and puts the whole region in danger," the GCC said.

It told Iran "to stop its occupation of the three islands."

The GCC statement said the group was also "con-

cerned about Iran's intention to acquire conventional and non-conventional weapons "exceeding its legal defence needs."

The GCC ministers also voiced fears that Israeli policies were leading to stalemate in the peace process and increasing tension in the region.

The GCC called for Israel to "seriously commit itself" to implementing the agreements already concluded with the Palestinians.

It also expressed hope that "the recent contacts between the parties concerned will end in a revitalisation of the peace process."

The GCC statement said the group was worried by "the political direction of the Israeli government," which "persists in its occupation of Arab land, continues its annexation of East Jerusalem, refuses to withdraw from the Golan Heights and is expanding Jewish settlements."

The statement said the GCC is "worried that this Israeli policy is hampering the peace process and bringing tension into the area, with the dangers and consequences involved."

The GCC reiterated "the necessity of continuing the peace process and imple-

menting all the agreements that have been concluded." It also called for the resumption of talks on the other peace process tracks with Syria and Lebanon.

The GCC said that for "a just and complete peace" Israel needed to pull out completely from the Palestinian territories, including Arab East Jerusalem, and to allow the Palestinian people to establish an independent state.

It also called on Israel "to withdraw completely from the Golan and from southern Lebanon."

Bahrain said meanwhile Sunday it would boycott the next GCC summit due to be held in December in Qatar because of a territorial dispute with the host country.

Bahrain told the meeting of GCC foreign ministers that it would be "difficult, if not impossible to take part in this summit given that Qatar has made a complaint (to the International Court of Justice) against Bahrain."

The Bahraini ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Khaled Mohammad Al Mussallam, said his country had "put forward initiatives to solve this problem through Saudi mediation and the legal mechanisms of the GCC."

Washington does not rule out more strikes

(Continued from page 1)

to wrest territory from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which reported the fall of the two towns on Sunday, he said.

Gen. Shalikashvili said Baghdad had withdrawn all but "hundreds" of its troops from the northern safe haven after the United States fired 44 cruise missiles into southern Iraq because of its drive in support of the KDP last week.

"I don't know to what degree there's active assistance" by President Saddam in the latest KDP offensive, Gen. Shalikashvili said. "But what you're seeing is Kurdish fighting... The United States, rather than siding with one Kurdish faction, against another, which I believe would have been wrong, has always put its effort on trying to get the two sides together to resolve their

differences so peace can once again return to the Kurdish area." But, Gen. Shalikashvili said, the United States will not stand "idly by" if President Saddam threatens his people or the region.

Pressed on whether the United States might intervene to confront President Saddam in the north, Gen. Shalikashvili said Washington had always been very careful not to signal Baghdad what it would do.

Iraq meanwhile continued to ridicule the U.S. saying the U.S. domination of the United Nations was over after the failure of London and Washington to push through a Security Council resolution condemning Iraq.

"The U.S.-British failure amounts to a death sentence for U.S. hegemony over the (U.N.) Security Council," the official government daily Al

Jumhuriya said.

"What happened at the Security Council was a major upset. The days where (United States Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine) Albright only had to lift her little finger to make the other 14 members obey are over," it added. "Russia said 'nyet' (no), France supported it as did China. For the first time since 1989 Russia has fought back, putting an end to Albright's threatening gesticulations," it said.

Britain, whose draft was backed by the United States, on Friday abandoned efforts to secure a U.N. condemnation of the Iraqi military incursion into the Kurdish "safe haven."

The draft resolution from the outset faced fierce resistance from the three other permanent U.N. Security Council members with veto power — China, France and Russia.

(Continued from page 12)

modern world calls for flexible government institutions so that "public policies can absorb the shocks yet still provide a solid foundation on which the private sector can build and expand."

With focus on the private sector, Sam Wex, a senior visiting fellow at the Canadian Centre for Management Development, said: "Access to capital used to be the most valuable asset, and the most important managerial task was to allocate it to the most productive users.

Now it is widely believed that knowledge is the most valuable asset and that the most important managerial job is to ensure that knowledge is generated and efficiently used."

Minister of Administrative Development Kamal Nasser told reporters that the seminar was held to address means to achieve efficient administration, adding that an "efficient government is a small government with high production in short time."

He said that only efficient administrations come out

with successful development.

In the afternoon, a panel discussion was held with participants presenting their viewpoints on enhancing accountability and ethics in the public sector.

Jeremy Pope, managing director of Transparency International (TI) in Germany, said that corruption should be seen by the community at large.

In his paper he added that the government should adopt a strategy that reduces opportunities for corruption, increases the likelihood of

corruption being detected, and reduces the possibility of an individual being able to profit from such acts.

Mr. Pope suggested that to reduce corruption governments must enforce existing laws, design effective penalties for bribery, develop international support mechanisms and scrutinise government programmes.

He also decried public cynicism regarding official corruption and suggested that efforts be made so that such acts are not simply accepted.

Regarding the same issue,

Ms. McQuillan said governments should adopt communication strategies which would help build momentum for change.

The four-day seminar, which was organised by the Ministry of Administrative Development in cooperation with the World Bank, brought together ministers and officials from 13 Arab Countries.

Participating were also members of the private and public sectors in Jordan, officials from international organisations as well as donor countries.

Saudi, Nabulsi lash out at each other

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates						Prices as at..... 8/09/96 20:56			
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.4930	0.6414	1.2180	106.20	1.3719	1614.00	1.6730	5.0680
Yen/Mark	0.0093	1.0000	0.4328	0.7108	77.76	0.7417	1012.20	1.1708	3.4111
GB Sterling	1.5590	1.5590	-	1.8915	170.70	2.1268	2380.33	2.8982	7.9478
Sw Franc	0.8294	1.2278	0.5248	1.0000	89.78	1.2000	1200.00	1.3663	4.7485
JP Yen	0.0082	1.3622	0.5841	1.1095	-	1.2517	13.81	162.65	4.6515
DM/Mark	0.7288	1.0000	0.4268	0.7122	77.55	0.7402	1012.20	1.1708	3.4111
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9855	0.4226	0.8003	1386.19	0.9055	-	11.04	3.3650
NL Guilder	0.3767	0.8870	0.2728	0.7278	68.33	0.7819	900.33	-	2.6655
FR Franc	0.1962	0.2928	0.1256	0.2350	21.43	0.2991	32.81	32.8100	-

Energy			Mid-East Currencies					
Oil	Last	Previous	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	23.05	22.80	SA Riyal	0.2866	0.3989	0.17103	0.5283	29.2235
Crude	22.80	22.40	IR Dinar	0.2723	0.3075	0.17465	0.53219	29.8427
Bony	23.05	22.60	KW Dinar	3.3388	4.595	2.14179	4.07332	365.988
Oil	19.96	18.55	BD Taka	1.4770	2.86428	1.70735	2.7262	250.838
UL Gas	213.00	214.00	CY Pound	2.1604	3.2295	1.3931	2.627	235.916

Energy				* JOD Cross Rates			
Commodity	Last	Delivery		Currency	Buy	Sell	
Coffee (c/b)	119	Spot		US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
Cocoa (c/b)	423	Spot		GB Sterling	2.4038	2.4058	
Sugar (c/b)	362	Spot		DE Mark	0.4738	0.4762	
Wheat (c/b)	175	Spot		FR Franc	7.6383	7.6427	
Soya (c/b)	64.2	Spot		FR Franc	0.1387	0.1394	
Barley (c/b)	307	Spot		NL Guilder	7.4217	7.4253	
Barley (c/b)	326	Spot		NL Guilder	0.4227	0.4248	
Rice (c/b)	532	Spot					

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	0.4036	0.4050
DE Mark	0.4735	0.4762
CH Franc	0.6683	0.6687
FR Franc	0.1387	0.1394
Sw Franc	0.6273	0.6303
NL Guilder	0.4227	0.4248
TE Lira	0.4872	0.4893

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Chang, Sampras advance to U.S. Open men's final

NEW YORK (R) — Pete Sampras sprung back from his gut-wrenching victory two days ago to beat Goran Ivanisevic in a booming service battle Saturday that set up a showdown in the U.S. Open final against Michael Chang.

Sampras, sick to his stomach and barely able to stand during a fifth-set tiebreaker win over Spaniard Alex Corretja in the quarters, showed no ill effects against Ivanisevic as he thundered his way to a 6-3 6-4 6-7 (9-11) 6-3 victory.

Ivanisevic, who served 30 aces and saved four match points in the third-set tiebreaker, was not surprised by Sampras's revival.

"I knew he was going to be strong. He had one day to recover," said the fourth-seeded Croatian, who was aces 24 times by the top-seeded defender. "He only threw up. He didn't die."

Sampras said: "This is the U.S. Open. I have one more match. I have to forget about fatigue and go out and play."

Chang crushed Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, in a

shockingly easy victory to reach his first U.S. Open final. Chang overwhelmed the game's premier returner with his service and also outplayed the renowned backcourt slugger from the baseline.

"Things just really went well for me. Today everything clicked," said Chang, who finished the rout with a 116 miles-per-hour (187 kph) ace, his 16th of the match.

The semifinals results sent the top two seeds into championship Sunday, which will also have the leading women's players battling for the title.

Earlier on Saturday, defending champion Steffi Graf, the top seed, fought off five set points in the opening set on her way to a 7-5 6-3 win over Swiss teenager Martina Hingis in the completion of a match begun on Friday.

Graf will face second seed Monica Seles in a rematch of last year's championship showdown.

Sampras looked set to copy Chang's straight-set advance. He used single service breaks to

claim the first two sets and then seized a 6-3 lead in the tiebreaker for triple match point.

But Ivanisevic slugged a backhand passing shot winner to save the first and then was the beneficiary of a double fault.

"I basically choked on the second serve," Sampras said.

The Croat, in his first open semifinal, foiled the third successive match point when Sampras ended a long rally by sailing a forehand long.

Sampras held a fourth match point at 8-7 in the tie-break that Ivanisevic saved with a volley following up his 129 miles-per-hour (208 kph) serve.

Sampras saved two set points himself with aces before finally succumbing on an Ivanisevic service winner at 10-9. It took Sampras a few games to get back on track after the tiebreaker turnaround.

"I wasn't mad at myself. I was just a little bit rattled," he said. "The first couple of the games of the fourth set I couldn't believe I was still out here. I was so prepared to win the match at 6-3 in the tiebreaker."

Sampras settled down and claimed the fourth-set service break he needed in the eighth game, although Ivanisevic used a pair of aces to battle back from 0-40 and reach deuce.

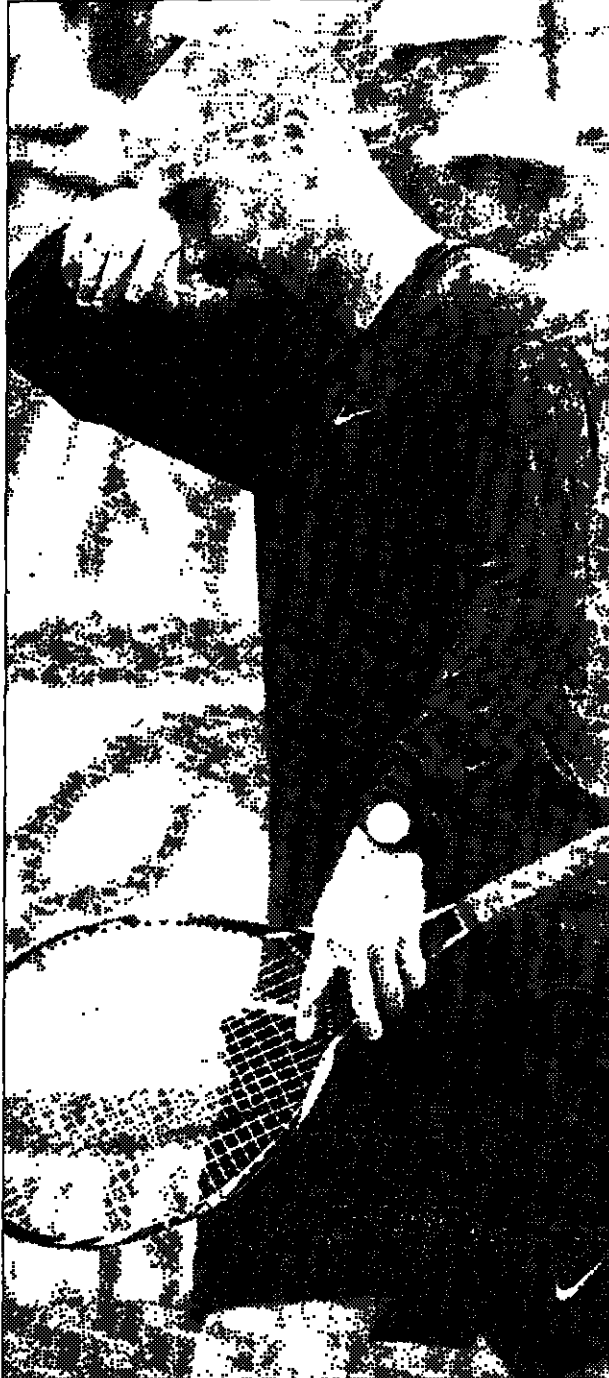
That helped to lift the spirits of Sampras.

"I feel like I'm a lot better," said Sampras, who needed two litres of intravenous fluid after his gruelling match with Corretja. "Yesterday I was a little tired, a little sore. Today I feel fine."

Chang felt on top of the world about his performance.

He was a step quicker than Agassi in getting to balls early and dictated points. He hit the ball more crisply and mixed up his serves brilliantly — spinning some and bashing others to the bewilderment of the flamboyant Las Vegas.

"I didn't put any pressure on his second serve so he kept on going for his first serve and he found his range," said Agassi, whose black-and-blue outfit befitted the beating he suffered.



Sixth seed Andre Agassi, from the United States, reacts to a missed point during his U.S. Open semifinal match against second seed Michael Chang. Chang defeated Agassi 6-3 6-2 6-2 to advance to the finals (Reuters photo)

"Usually I'm taking good clean shots but I couldn't even make good errors on his second serves today," moaned Agassi, who committed 45 unforced errors to 23 for Chang.

Chang, who won the French Open at the tender age of 17, finally got back to a Grand Slam final again last year at Roland Garros and reached this year's Australian Open final.

Now he is knocking at the Grand Slam door again.

"I'm pretty excited," Chang said about his prospects. "I think I have a pretty good shot."

Sampras, who holds a 10-7 career record against Chang including wins in eight of the last nine meetings, is hoping to avert a Grand Slam whitewash this season.

"This is my last chance to win a major," said Sampras, who won two majors in each of the last three years. "It's crunch time."

Baltimore shut out Tigers, Yankees lose

BALTIMORE (R) — Mike Mussina fired a six-hitter and Rafael Palmeiro and Bobby Bonilla each drove in two runs in the first inning as the Baltimore Orioles blanked the Detroit Tigers 6-0 Saturday for their first shutout of the season.

The Orioles climbed back within four games of the first-place Yankees in the American League East.

Mussina (19-9) walked one and struck out a season-high 11 for his 11th career shutout and joining New York's Andy Pettitte as the league's only 19-game winners. Pettite has 20 wins.

"I didn't consider it that big a deal to shut someone out," said Mussina. "I just didn't want to make any dumb mistakes. Everything happened the way it was supposed to and we won."

Mussina matched his career high for wins, set last season. He has won eight of his last nine starts.

In New York, emergency starter Paul Quantrill allowed four hits over six shutout innings and the Toronto Blue Jays scored all of their runs in the first and second innings.

Otis Nixon and Shawn

Green led off with doubles to open the scoring. Joe Carter then hit a 1-0 pitch from David Cone for his 28th home run and a 3-0 lead. Carter has 101 RBI, the ninth season in his career he has reached the century mark.

In Chicago, Alex Fernandez pitched 7 2/3 strong innings and Danny Tartabull homered as the White Sox edged the Boston Red Sox 4-3 to maintain their lead in the wild card race.

Fernandez allowed one run and five hits in winning for the first time in four starts. Roberto Hernandez got his 36th save despite allowing two runs and four hits over 1 1/3 innings.

With Robin Ventura aboard in the second, Tartabull hit a 2-1 pitch from Roger Clemens (8-12) over the right-field fence for his 22nd homer.

In Milwaukee, Ken Hill and four relievers combined on a four-hitter and Dean Palmer snapped a sixth-inning tie with an RBI single as the Texas Rangers edged the Brewers 3-1.

Hill (15-8) allowed one run and three hits over 6 2/3 innings. Mike Henneman

got his 28th save. Ivan Rodriguez had three hits and scored the tiebreaker for Texas.

At Minnesota, Matt Lawton's sacrifice fly in the fifth scored Todd Walker with the go-ahead run as the twins beat the California Angels 6-3 before 51,011 on Kirby Puckett night.

Puckett, who led the twins to world series championships in 1987 and 1991 and was likely the most popular player in team history, was forced to retire July 12 due to irreversible damage to the retina in his right eye from glaucoma.

In Oakland, Mark McGwire belted his Major League-leading 48th home run and Tony Batista went 4-for-5 as the Athletics pounded out a season-high 19 hits in a 13-6 rout of the Kansas City Royals.

The A's trailed 4-0 before scoring three runs in the fourth and three in the fifth to chase Tim Lincecum (13-9).

In Cleveland, the game between the Seattle Mariners and the Indians was postponed due to rain for the second straight day. No reschedule date has been set.

Smoltz gets 21st win as Braves beat Mets

ATLANTA (R) — John Smoltz fired a seven-hitter for his Major League-leading 21st win and Jermaine Dye added a three-run homer as the Atlanta Braves stifled the New York Mets 6-1 Saturday.

Smoltz (21-7) won for the first time in four starts and recorded his league-leading sixth complete game.

"I'm trying to create a playoff atmosphere," said Smoltz.

"What counts is the playoffs. If I win 22, 23 or 24 and don't perform well in the playoffs it will just be a selfish year."

Smoltz's 13 strikeouts marked the 11th time this season he has struck out 10 or more batters and the third time he has struck out 13 this season. He leads the majors with 250 strikeouts and his streakout of Andy Tomberlin in the seventh

was the 1,500th of his career.

In Los Angeles, Hideo Nomo came within one out of a complete game and Raul Mondesi hit a three-run homer as the Dodgers regained sole possession of first place by holding on to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 4-3 on Tommy Lasorda night.

Los Angeles has won 12 of its last 15 games and moved one game ahead of San Diego in the NL West.

Lasorda, who retired as manager last month due to health reasons, was honored before the game and received several standing ovations from the crowd of 50,862.

Nomo (14-10) allowed three runs and four hits with three walks and nine strikeouts in 8 2/3 innings. His longest stint since April 13. The win was his 14th, sur-

passing his total of 1995 when he was National League rookie of the year.

In St. Louis, Donovan Osborne hit the first grand slam by a Cardinals pitcher in over 10 years and the Redbirds extended their winning streak to eight games with an 8-3 victory over the San Diego Padres.

The victory enabled the first-place Cardinals to take a two-game lead over Houston in the National League Central.

In Cincinnati, Kevin Mitchell's three-run homer with two out in the sixth snapped a tie and lifted the Reds to a 7-3 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

Roger Salkeld (8-4) pitched two scoreless innings for the Reds, who have won five of their last six games.

Desi Wilson hit his first Major League home run in the ninth for the Giants, who have lost seven of their last eight.

At Florida, Mark Leiter (8-10) pitched 6 2/3 scoreless innings, allowing just four hits, and Mike Lansing had three hits including an RBI triple in the fifth that propelled the Montreal Expos to a 2-1 win over the Marlins.

The Expos took a one-game lead over San Diego in the wild-card race.

In a span of five at-bats in the third and fourth innings, Marlins left fielder Joe Orsulak threw out three runners on the bases.

In Houston, Orlando Miller homered to break a sixth-inning tie and Bill Spiers had a two-run single to cap a four-run third inning to help the Astros edge the Colorado Rockies 5-4.

Darryl Kile (11-8) allowed four runs and nine hits in seven innings, including a three-run homer to Andres Galaraga, his club-record 41st. Galaraga also set a team mark with 130 RBI, topping Dante Bichette's 128 a year ago.

In Philadelphia, pinch-hitter Ruben Amaro's RBI double snapped a seventh-inning tie and Wendell Magee and Mickey Morandini added solo home runs to lead the Phillies to a 4-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Amaro is batting .357 (10-for-28) with 10 RBI as a pinch-hitter this season.



Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia bites his racquet in disgust after losing a point to Pete Sampras of the U.S. during their U.S. Open semifinal match. Sampras won the match 6-3 6-4 6-7 6-3 (Reuters photo)

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Schumacher wins Monza GP as Hill spins out

MONZA, ITALY (R) — Double world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany sent more than 150,000 fans into ecstasy at the Italian Grand Prix Sunday when he drove to his first win for Ferrari in Italy since joining the team this season.

Schumacher's virtuoso performance overshadowed the battle for the world drivers' championship between Williams duo Briton Damon Hill and Canadian Jacques Villeneuve.

Hill, looking for the win that would virtually seal his first championship, made a brilliant start from pole position but spun out of the race on only the sixth lap of the 53-lap contest.

Villeneuve also failed to add to his points total by struggling home seventh after making three pitstops in a disappointing race for the Williams team.

Schumacher notched his second successive victory, his third of the season and 22nd of his career, comfortably ahead of Frenchman and former Ferrari driver Jean

Alesi who was driving for Schumacher's former team, Benetton.

Finland's Mika Hakinen in a McLaren was third ahead of the two Jordans driven by Briton Martin Brundle and Brazilian Rubens Barrichello. Another Brazilian, Pedro Diniz, finished sixth in a Ligier.

Schumacher's victory gave Ferrari their first cause for the mass celebrations which filled the track below the rostrum since Austrian Gerhard Berger won for the Marlboro-based team in 1988.

The result left the two top positions in the drivers' championship unchanged. But with only two races now remaining, Hill's lead of 13 points looks more commanding than it had before the start. Hill has 81 points, Villeneuve 68 and Schumacher 49.

Villeneuve now has a minimum target of one victory and a third place finish in the final two races in Portugal and Japan, with Hill failing to score in either, if he is to stop him taking the title away with him from Williams at the end of the season.

Rangers turn down Barcelona's bid for Laudrup

GLASGOW (R) — Glasgow Rangers have turned down a 9.0 million pound sterling (\$14.1 million) bid for striker Brian Laudrup from Spanish giants Barcelona.

"The player is not for sale," Rangers chairman David Murray said on Sunday. "Barcelona were talking in terms of nine million, but you would have to wonder what Brian would be. We told them simply that he is not for sale. Brian is a fantastic player, a fantastic guy and Rangers aren't interested in selling him."

The 27-year-old Danish international signed from Fiorentina of Italy in 1994 for 2.2 million pounds (\$3.4 million) and was Scotland's player of the year in his first season. His contract runs until the end of next season.

"We would hope he would eventually stay longer than the four years for which he is contracted to us," Murray said.

Tyson wins heavyweight title

LAS VEGAS (R) — A furiously charging Mike Tyson stopped a dubiously hurt Bruce Seldon at one minute, 49 seconds of the first round to win the World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight title on Saturday.

Tyson came out fast at the sound of the first bell of the scheduled 12-round fight, charging Seldon but missing with wild roundhouse punches. Seldon tried to keep Tyson away with a jab, but when Tyson kept coming Seldon grabbed onto him.

Tyson was credited with two knockdowns, but the first one was a phantom punch for most of the crowd of about 9,000 fans who shouted "fix, fix, fix" after the fight was stopped.

Seldon went down the first time after Tyson missed him with a right that sailed over his head. But Seldon fell down anyway.

Referee Richard Steele did not begin counting, as he appeared to think Seldon had slipped.

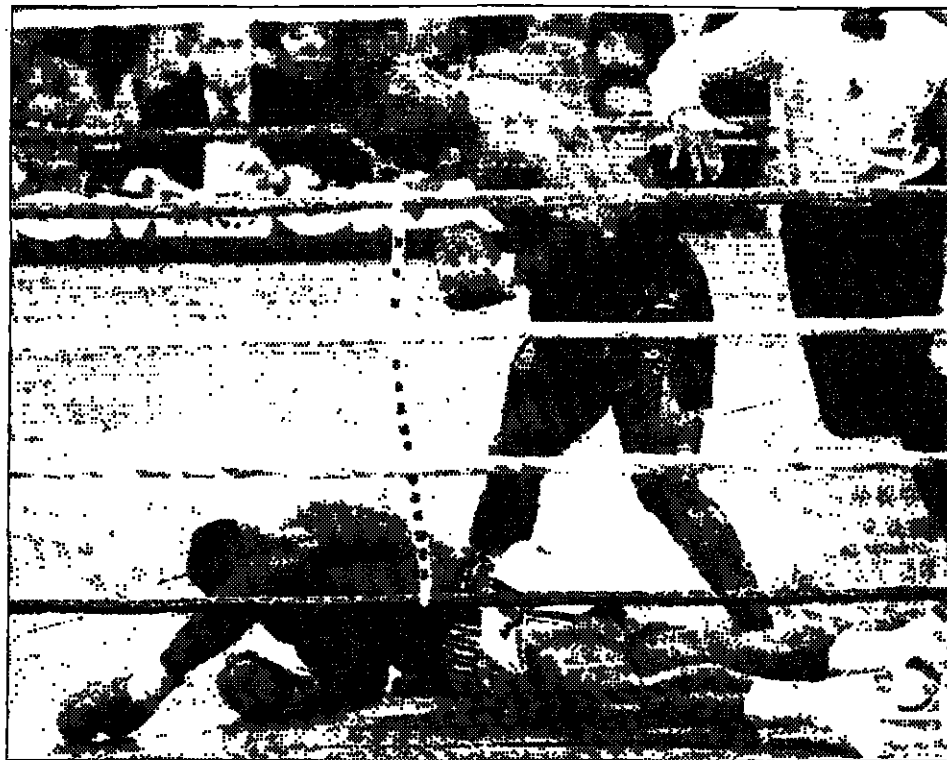
Seldon got up quickly and Tyson charged him, landing a left hook on the top of Seldon's head sending Seldon down to the canvas where he bounced before getting up quickly again.

On his feet, Seldon shook his head as Steele began counting. Then Seldon, in a delayed reaction, staggered back into the ropes and Steele waved the fight off.

Tyson referred to Cus d'Amato, his late trainer and surrogate father, saying: "Cus, two down, one to go."

Tyson was referring to having added the WBA title to his World Boxing Council championship.

"I was just trying to get him up for the knockdown," Tyson said. "I felt the power of the jab. I just



World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Mike Tyson stands over World Boxing Association champion Bruce Seldon in the first round of their bout at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas. Tyson beat Seldon by technical knockout after 1:49 of the first round (Reuters photo)

wanted to keep moving to avoid his jab. The jab was very powerful.

With the boos of the crowd ringing in his ears, Seldon said: "So you know how hurt I am right now. I came to fight. I came to win. I did not realise how hard he hits, or how fast he is."

"He is a destroyer, and I am witness to that. The shot rattled my eyes and I couldn't see straight. I did not train 12 weeks to come here and take a dive. I'm already a millionaire. It's not about money. I'm sorry. I tried my best. He is a great fighter. He is a bad man."

It was Tyson's fourth fight since his release from

prison in March 1995 after serving three years on a rape conviction.

Tyson easily dispatched amateurish Peter McNeeley in the first round of their fight in August of that year. Tyson stopped Buster Mathis Jr in the third round in December 1995 and Briton Frank Bruno last March to win the WBC title.

Seldon climbed into the ring wearing white trunks trimmed in red and blue. One of Seldon's cornermen carried a small picture of Seldon's late mother over his head, apparently as inspiration to Seldon.

Tyson, now 45-1, was a 22-1 favourite to beat Seldon, who lived up to his

reputation of having a glass jaw. Seldon, now 33-4, won the vacant WBA title in April 1995, stopping a faded Tony Tucker on cuts in the seventh round.

Seldon was paid \$5 million for showing up against Tyson, 30, who was guaranteed \$15 million for the Seldon encounter.

Tyson's WBC crown was not at stake on Saturday. Tyson is expected to surrender the WBC title within a couple of days as part of an agreement stemming from a New Jersey lawsuit filed by Lennox Lewis, the former WBC champion.

Tyson is expected next to fight former champion Evander Holyfield on November 9.

Stars likely to ignore plea to compete in Sarajevo

MILAN (R) — Many of the world's top athletes are likely to ignore pleas to take part in an international meeting in the war-torn Bosnian capital of Sarajevo on Monday.

Despite a request to elite athletes from Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, who together with the International Olympic Committee have organised the solidarity meeting for Sarajevo, only about 50 are expected to compete.

IAAF officials were putting a brave face on matters on Sunday before a specially chartered plane left Milan, the venue of Saturday's final grand prix meeting, for the 90-minute flight to Sarajevo, venue of the 1984 winter Olympics.

The meet will be held at the Kosevo Stadium, stage for the opening and closing ceremonies of those games 12 years ago but which was extensively damaged during the four years of the Bosnian war when it was used as an army base.

Although the former restaurant in the stadium is now an empty shell, the electronic scoreboard has been destroyed and the floodlight pylons out of operation. A new track has been laid and between them the IAAF and the IOC have provided \$1.5 million to start the long job of restoring the stadium to its former glory.

Nebiolo, IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch and Bosnia-Herzegovina President Alija Izetbegovic will be present at Monday's event which is regarded as having an important political and social significance by the IAAF.

With no entry charge being made, a capacity crowd of 50,000 is expected for what the IAAF and IOC hope will be the biggest sports meeting in Bosnia, not only since the end of hostilities but also since the 1984 winter games.

But while mainly eastern European and African athletes such as Olympic 1,500 metres champion Noureddine Morceli of Algeria and Daniel Komen of Kenya, who set a world

3,000 metres record last weekend and won the men's overall grand prix title on Saturday, have pledged themselves to the meeting, many others have not.

American Dennis Mitchell, the American 100 metres champion and a 100 metre finalist at the Olympics last month, said he was staying away because he feared for his safety.

"Although track and field is my life, it's not worth my life," he said.

"I don't believe it is safe for me to go there and a few other athletes feel the same way. I would like to one day, but I have talked this over with my family and we have decided it.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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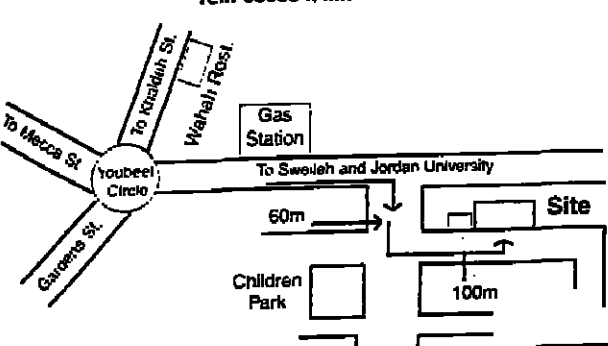
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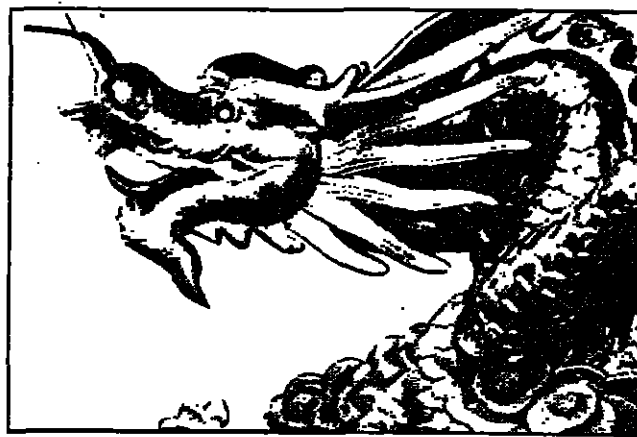
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Regent urges school-parent cooperation to help children accept right moral values

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday called for a greater measure of cooperation between schools and families of students towards implanting moral values in the hearts of students and in a bid to steer them away from violence and misbehaviour.

"Educational reform should not be restricted to school or the Ministry of Education. It should also involve the local community and the parents and must be directed towards helping the youth to adapt to the requirements and changes in socio-economic life," said Prince Hassan in an opening speech to a seminar on violence in school which opened at the Social Development Centre of Hay Nazal.

"Violence could be the result of the youth's ignorance of ways to move from school to public life but this could be overcome through dialogue

and through adequate civic education," added Prince Hassan.

He urged schools to adopt programmes by which teachers would guide students and help them to solve problems. Violence at school often reflects weakness in teaching methods in class because teachers could be lacking appropriate methods in dealing with the pupils, especially teenagers and could be the result of weakness in creating an amicable atmosphere inside the classroom, he said. Prince Hassan underlined the importance for the ministries of education, social development and youth to join hands with the Public Security Department, universities and other concerned institutions in addition to parents to help teach correct and healthy practices to the children.

"It is important to encourage researchers to help us meet the various needs of students at different

stages," said the Regent. "We have to remember that we are dealing with humans in school and not mere numbers and facing children with varying tendencies and interests."

Calling for a revision of laws and regulations connected with the educational process, the Regent said that ample provisions should be made on how to deal with violence in school and for educational counsellors to be stationed in police centres to enhance cooperation between police and schools.

Dr. Sari Nasser, head of the social development centres society, spoke at the outset of the two-day meeting reviewing the centres' objectives, which, among other things, foster cooperation among members of the local community, encourage handicrafts among youths and monitor social problems with a view to contributing to their solution.

Experts present Jordan's economic experience and plans to conference on good governance

By Ghaila Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A seminar on "Good Governance for Private Sector Development and Investment" opened Sunday with participants presenting their different experiences on public administration development and the role of the government in creating a suitable climate for the private sector.

Jordan's experience was presented by Director General of the Institute of Public Administration Zuhair Kayed, who said Jordan was working on developing the performance of government departments and civil servants in order to cope with the international developments in terms of institutional and individual performance.

Dr. Kayed reviewed the history of public administration in Jordan with focus on economy, investment, legislation, judiciary, administration and public funds.

He said Jordan had carried out a comprehensive study on existing legislation adding that some legislation were amended to support the judiciary in the Kingdom.

"One of the main causes for legislative reform is to ensure transparency that will lead to accountability and check corruption in state bureaucracy," he said.

Dr. Kayed added that Jordan had also created a suitable climate for investment that caters to comprehensive development based on scientific foundation.

Jordan has introduced measures to ensure protection of public funds and simplify work procedures to contribute to the acceleration of economic development, Dr. Kayed said.

Reducing the role of the public sector and enhancing that of the private sector was a step the Kingdom took in order to encourage competition and help the private sector participate in the decision-making process, added Dr. Kayed.

Dr. Kayed said the Ministry of Administrative Development, which organised the seminar, had finalised a number of projects that focused on preparing job descriptions for civil servants and initiating a unified system for salary increases.

Secretary General of the Investment-Promotion Department Taleb Rifai reviewed the Jordanian economy during the 80s, the impact of the Gulf war and the Kingdom's economic restructuring policies as well as the investment climate in the Kingdom.

He said that Jordan had embarked on an aggressive programme of legal and institutional reform with emphasis on the income and sales tax laws. These laws "shift the burden from the procedures to consumers via higher sales tax and lower corporate and individual income taxes."

The Investment

Promotion Law, Mr. Rifai said, provides a number of incentives such as exemption from customs and fees for fixed assets and spare parts needed for expanding modernising or developing a project.

He added that hotels and hospital projects were granted extra exemptions from taxes and fees on their purchases of furniture and supplies for the purpose of renovation once every seven years.

Any increase in the value of imported fixed assets is exempted from taxes and fees if the increase results from the rise in prices, freight charges or changes in exchange rates, he added.

Mr. Rifai said that guarantees to non-Jordanian investors stipulate that they own all or any part of any "economic project."

However, he added, investors may not own more than 50 per cent of projects including land and air transportation, construction contracting, commerce and commercial services, banking and insurance, telecommunications, mining, and agricultural production.

Reviewing Jordan's political and economic situation, Mr. Rifai said the Kingdom played a pivotal role in the Middle East and North Africa region in attaining integration of the political, economical and social spheres.

Jordan has exerted continuous efforts in carrying out structural and legal reform.

Political analyst Khalil Shuqai said the move could lead to an internal rift in the Brotherhood in the West Bank and divide it from the Brotherhood in Jordan.

The Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine has historically been part of the Jordanian Brotherhood. It was licensed as a charity group by the Jordanian authorities in the late 1940s. "A movement licensed by the Palestinian (National) Authority would attract traditional Muslim Brotherhood members who would be willing to cooperate with the authority and would be similar to passive movements in other Arab countries," Mr. Shuqai said.

One Brotherhood member, who opposes a licence from the self-rule administration, said: "It means that the Brotherhood and Hamas, which is part of the Brotherhood, will have an independent leadership in Palestine — and this is rejected." After Israel seized the West Bank from Jordan and Gaza from Egypt in the 1967, the Brotherhood continued to function openly in the occupied territories.

The Brotherhood prevented its members from actively resisting the Israeli military authorities at a time when other

it has also sought the globalisation of its economy and achieved a private sector-led economic growth.

Ahmad B. Ahmad, assistant director of the Jabal Ali Free Zone Authority in Dubai, presented the experience of the free zone area and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) contribution to private sector development and the motivations and facilities provided for investors to establish industrial and commercial projects.

The government of Benjamin Netanyahu has threatened to close the Orient House, insisting the PLO must stop all its political activities in Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Netanyahu, who last week rejected criticism from hardliners in his own Likud party who maintained the offices remained open, said on Sunday he had conflicting information and was checking into the matter.

It is worthwhile that the other side understand that we will stand firm that these institutions be closed — truly be closed," Mr. Netanyahu told Israel's Channel 2 television. "It is a fundamental principle for the continuation of the (peace) process."

Asked if his visit was a recognition of the Orient House, Mr. Netanyahu said: "There is no need for me to do that. The Orient House has been here since before 1967."

He attacked the mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, a right-wing member of parliament, saying: "Any

proposals" for talks, he said, adding that contacts were under way with Syria "through the mediation of the United States."

Mr. Netanyahu is to meet President Bill Clinton in Washington Monday, then address a Jewish organisation in New York Tuesday. He is also to meet Republican Party vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp.

The goal is to win a resumption of negotiations on the Syrian track, but without any preconditions," an official close to Mr. Netanyahu said Sunday.

"Up to now the Syrians have demanded an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan as the price to pay for talks, but this is unacceptable," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

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Israel parliament members visit PLO's Jerusalem headquarters

Netanyahu says he wants to check status of closed PNA offices in Arab East Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A handful of lawmakers on an Israeli parliamentary committee visited the Orient House, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Jerusalem headquarters, on Sunday in defiance of government policy.

The visit, the first by Israeli legislators, coincided with Israeli diplomatic efforts to persuade the fact-finding "troika" of the European Union (EU) foreign ministers not to hold talks with Palestinians at the Orient House.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said on Saturday it was vital the troika visit Israel in the near future and also hold talks with the PLO.

Knesset Interior Committee Chairman Salah Tarif of the opposition Labour Party organised the visit, hosted by Faisal Al Hussein, the top PLO official in Jerusalem.

"We came to visit the Orient House to hear the problems of the residents of East Jerusalem," Mr. Tarif, a Druze Arab, told reporters. He said the visit was "very official" and that a majority of committee members had voted in favour of it.

Mr. Tarif was accompanied by other Labour legislators on the 15-member committee, but right-wing and religious members boycotted the visit.

Mr. Tarif said afterwards he "regretted their absence."

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Under Mr. Peres, talks



Faisal Hussein (right), the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem, with Salah Tarif from the Israeli opposition Labour Party, stands outside the Orient House in Arab East Jerusalem on Sunday (Reuters photo)

mayor of Jerusalem who does not recognise that the Orient House is present and does not deal with its problems should resign."

Mr. Tarif said his visit sought "to create a new atmosphere after the meeting of Mr. Netanyahu and (PLO head Yasser) Arafat" last Wednesday.

Far-right Deputy Benny Elon, who refused to enter the Orient House with the other committee members, slammed Mr. Tarif for not "protecting the prestige and sovereignty of Jerusalem" and "encouraging (the PLO) to stay" in the city.

Mr. Hussein, meanwhile, praised Mr. Spring for his stance on the Orient House, saying, "The Europeans choose their own sovereign policy and they have chosen the best way to promote the peace process."

Mr. Spring's announcement in Tralee, Ireland, on Saturday flew in the face of requests by Foreign Minister David Levy, who he met earlier last week. Israeli officials said on Sunday.

Levy expressly asked that the troika abstain from such actions, underlining that contacts with the Palestinian (National)

Authority should take place in Gaza or Jericho, not East Jerusalem, foreign ministry spokesman Ygal Palmor told AFP.

Israel will "give its reaction at the proper time," he said, adding that Mr. Spring had not set a date for his visit to the Jewish state.

Previously the Mr. Netanyahu government has warned it will refuse to receive European diplomats if they act on their intention to pass by the Orient House.

The 15 foreign ministers of the EU decided on July 15 in Brussels that any future EU visits to Israel should include a stop at the Orient House. The EU troika currently includes, along with Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands.

After an Israeli demand, Mr. Arafat agreed to close three offices in East Jerusalem just before his meeting with Mr. Netanyahu last Wednesday on the Israeli border with Gaza.

But right-wing Israeli "hawk" Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, cast doubt that the Palestinian offices were truly closed during a cabinet meeting on Friday, saying: "Their doors are closed, but that doesn't stop them working."

COLUMN

Charles hires masseuse as personal assistant

LONDON (AFP) — Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, has hired his masseuse as his new personal assistant, the News Of The World reported Sunday. Clair Southwell, 28, will replace Tiggy Legge-Bourke who will hereafter concentrate on looking after the Prince of Wales's two sons, Princes William, 14 and Harry 11, the paper said. Ms. Southwell, a divorced mother of two, is a qualified masseuse who has treated the prince for recurring back-ache for many years. She met Prince Charles several years ago during a skiing holiday in Switzerland and helped to treat him after he was injured in a fall from his horse during a polo match five years ago.

'Diana being wooed for ad campaigns'

LONDON (R) — Britain's Princess Diana is being wooed by two American companies to front their advertising campaigns, the Sunday Business newspaper said. The paper, citing industry experts, said the campaigns could earn the recently divorced princess at least £2 million (\$3 million) and propel her into the supermodel class. It said the first offer came from Omnipoint Communications which is launching a new mobile telephone network. Omnipoint President George F. Schmitt said the campaign would recall the princess's problems when her phone conversations were picked up by an eavesdropper. "My idea is that Diana will be holding a digital phone and declare 'I'd had one of these. I'd have been queen,'" the paper said. The other offer came from American Airlines which would seek to use one of the world's most recognisable women in a series of discreet promotions and personal appearance. It said the airline would begin by making a goodwill contribution of £250,000 (\$390,000) to London AIDS charities supported by the princess, who has now finalised her divorce from British heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles.

Police beat mourning fans of dead film star

DHAKA (AFP) — Police beat their way through mourning crowds as the body of Bangladesh film star Salman Shah was returned to his home district for burial while one fan committed suicide, reports said Sunday. Shah, 30, was found dead Friday in his Dhaka apartment and suicide by hanging is reportedly suspected but police are investigating. Troubles erupted as thousands of fans massed around the body of Shah as it was taken for burial Saturday to his home district in Sylhet, southeast Bangladesh. Police had to use batons to get through. A 16-year-old fan committed suicide after reading of her hero's death. Lipi Shah hanged herself at her home in Narsingdi district clutching a picture of her idol, news reports said. The schoolgirl left behind a note saying: "I do not want to live anymore. Like Salman, I am also bidding farewell to this world." Doctors said hanging was the most likely cause of Shah's death, but that they were waiting for a forensic report. His parents have alleged that he was killed and sources in the Bangladesh Film Producers Association have said he was depressed because of differences with his wife and problems with colleagues. The association said the release of 17 unfinished films starring Shah was now uncertain.

High voter turnout in S. Lebanon

SIDON (AFP) — Voter turnout in southern Lebanon was the highest yet in the country's staggered elections, despite a Syrian-imposed coalition between the two main Shiite Muslim groups, officials said Sunday.

An estimated 50 per cent of registered voters went to the polls in southern Lebanon in the fourth of five region-by-region elections held on successive Sundays, surpassing Mount Lebanon's 45 per cent turnout, northern Lebanon's 40 per cent and Beirut's 31 per cent. The last round of legislative elections to the 128-seat parliament will be held Sept. 15 in the eastern Bekaa Valley for its 23 seats.

Some 522,000 registered voters were eligible to choose the mostly Shiite south's 23 members of parliament.

The field of candidates narrowed to 70 after Damascus brokered the coalition between Iran-backed Hizbollah and the Syrian-supported Amal Wednesday. Under Lebanon's confessional quota system, 14 of the seats are reserved for Shiite Muslims, three for Sunni Muslims, one for a Druze, two for Maronite Christians, two for Greek Catholics and one for a Greek Orthodox Christian.

Muslim Brotherhood seeks PNA approval for legalising its activities

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Muslim Brotherhood movement in the West Bank, parent organisation of the militant group Hamas, has asked the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to legalise its activities, a leading official of the group said on Sunday.

"There is a necessity for us to carry out our religious, social and preaching activities without any tension," said Bilal told Reuters. "We have asked the authority to license the Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine so it can work in the open."

Mr. Bilal said the Brotherhood "has always been a peaceful movement — it does not believe in violence nor in confrontation with any regime."

A PNA official confirmed the movement had asked for a licence, and said the authority was studying the request.

Other members of the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas strongly opposed the move initiated by Brotherhood officials in the West Bank city of Nablus, saying it would split the Islamic movement.

"Such a step will leave a very negative effect on the Islamic arena," said Jamal Mansour, an Islamist close to the Brotherhood and Hamas.

Political analyst Khalil Shuqai said the move could lead to an internal rift in the Brotherhood in the West Bank and divide it from the Brotherhood in Jordan.

The Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine has historically been part of the Jordanian Brotherhood. It was licensed as a charity group by the Jordanian authorities in the late 1940s. "A movement licensed by the Palestinian (National) Authority would attract traditional Muslim Brotherhood members who would be willing to cooperate with the authority and would be similar to passive movements in other Arab countries," Mr. Shuqai said.

One Brotherhood member, who opposes a licence from the self-rule administration, said: "It means that the Brotherhood and Hamas, which is part of the Brotherhood, will have an independent leadership in Palestine — and this is rejected."

After Israel seized the West Bank from Jordan and Gaza from Egypt in the 1967, the Brotherhood continued to function openly in the occupied territories.

The Brotherhood prevented its members from actively resisting the Israeli military authorities at a time when other

Palestinian groups fought occupation. The movement flourished, widely expanding a network of social and religious institutions.

When the Palestinian uprising started in 1987, the Brotherhood spawned the Islamic resistance movement Hamas as its military arm.

Hamas, opposed to Israeli-Palestinian peace deals, carried out a wave of suicide bombings against the Jewish state last year killing scores of Israelis.

Under a recent crackdown against Hamas, the PNA has taken over administration of mosques and restricted religious and political activities of Islamic groups.

"A debate within the Islamic movement started after the crackdowns to find ways to protect our institutions," said one Hamas member. He said some activists believe a return to the non-violent teachings of the Muslim Brotherhood would best protect Islamic interests and avoid destruction of a social and economic infrastructure built over decades.

Others would like to see creation of a new Islamic political party, still under the umbrella of the Brotherhood, but including Hamas. "The debate continues," the Hamas member said.